それでも町は廻っている

通称"それ町"

石黒正数
Ishiguro Masakazu

Soredemo Machi ha Mawatteiru

4

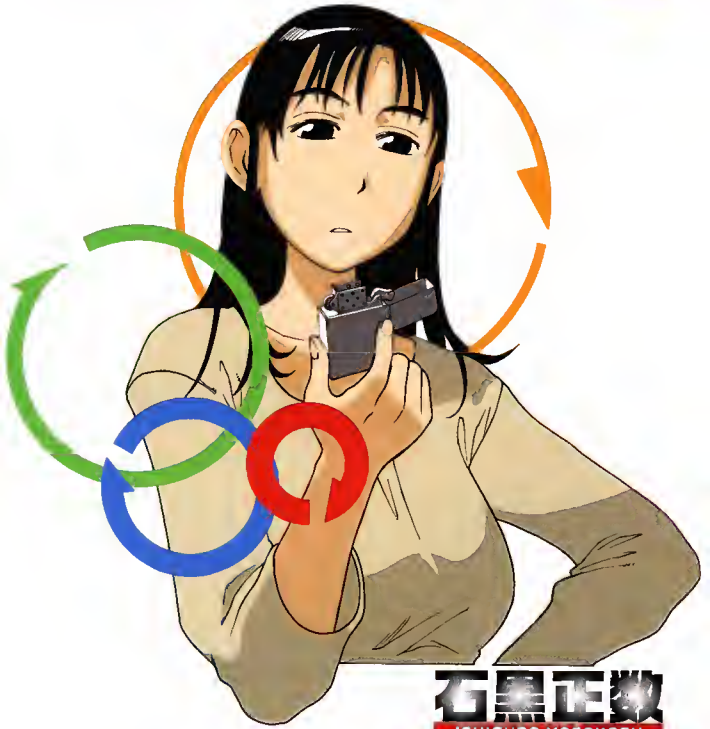
YOUNG KING COMICS

YOUNG KING COMICS

通称"それ町"

それでも町は廻っている 4

AND YET, THE TOWN MOVES



石黒正数

ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 29 ARASHIYAMA TREASURE HUNTERS 3

CHAPTER 30 MAID DETECTIVE DELIVERS BIG 84

CHAPTER 31 A BOWL OF MACHINE SOBA 107

CHAPTER 32 BATTLE! FAIRY VS. REAPER 131

CHAPTER 33 VERY WEAK CARD 153

CHAPTER 34 A DUMB WAY TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S 179

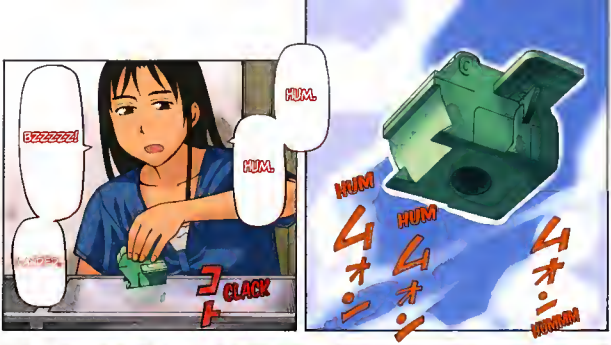
SHIKOHONE VILLAGE GUIDEBOOK 83

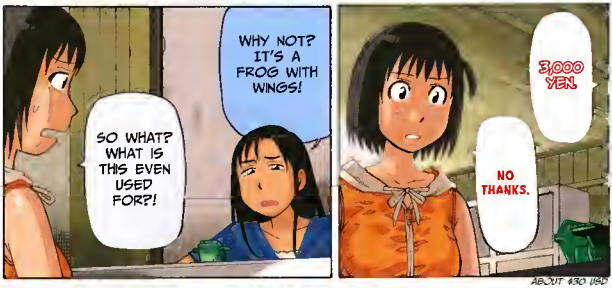
DEMON COLOSSEUM CARDS 177

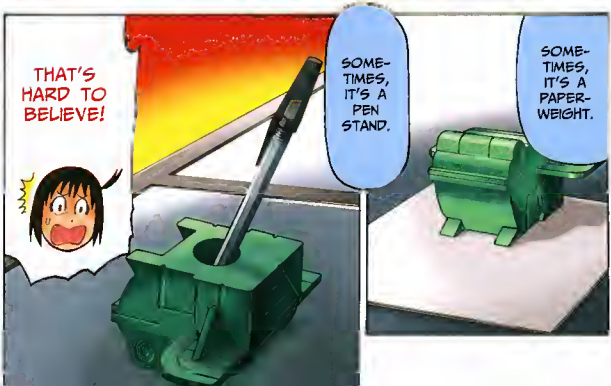
POOR GUY 178

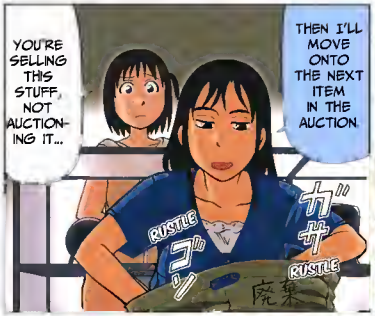
AFTERWORD 199

*THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION. NONE OF THE CHARACTERS, HAPPENINGS, ETC. ARE REAL.


BZZZZZZZ!
HUM.
HUM.
コト CLACK
NUM
ムォーン
HUM
ムォーン
ムォーン
MMMMM


WHY NOT? IT'S A FROG WITH WINGS!
SO WHAT? WHAT IS THIS EVEN USED FOR?!
3,000 YEN.
NO THANKS.
ABOUT ¥30 USED

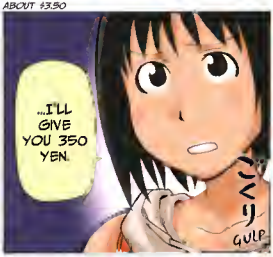

THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE!
SOME-TIMES, IT'S A PEN STAND.
SOME-TIMES, IT'S A PAPER-WEIGHT.



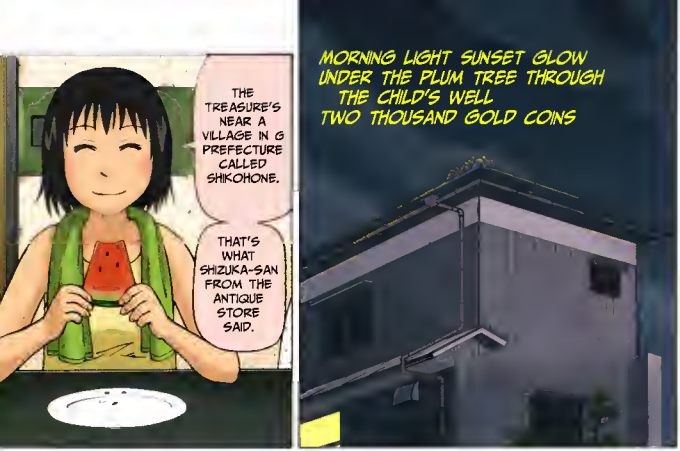
BAG: JUNK

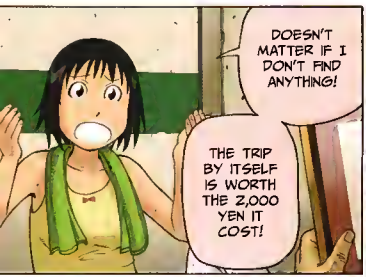
ABOUT ¥3,500

ABOUT ¥35



TA-DA! I HAVE SOMETHING THAT APPEARS TO BE A TREASURE MAP. 3,500 YEN, INCLUDING THE FRAME.
MORNING LIGHT SUNSET GLOW UNDER THE PLUM TREE THROUGH THE CHILD'S WELL TWO THOUSAND GOLD COINS

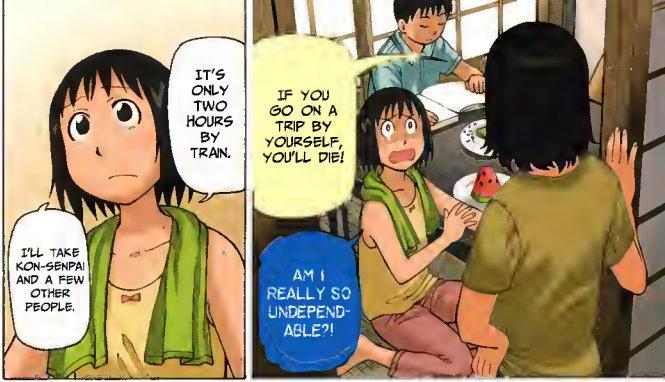

THE TREASURE'S NEAR A VILLAGE IN G PREFECTURE CALLED SHIKOHONE.
THAT'S WHAT SHIZUKA-SAN FROM THE ANTIQUE STORE SAID.
MORNING LIGHT SUNSET GLOW
UNDER THE PLUM TREE THROUGH
THE CHILD'S WELL
TWO THOUSAND GOLD COINS

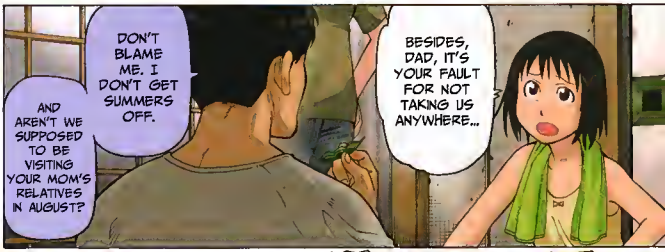

DOESN'T MATTER IF I DON'T FIND ANYTHING!
THE TRIP BY ITSELF IS WORTH THE 2,000 YEN IT COST!

ABOUT $20

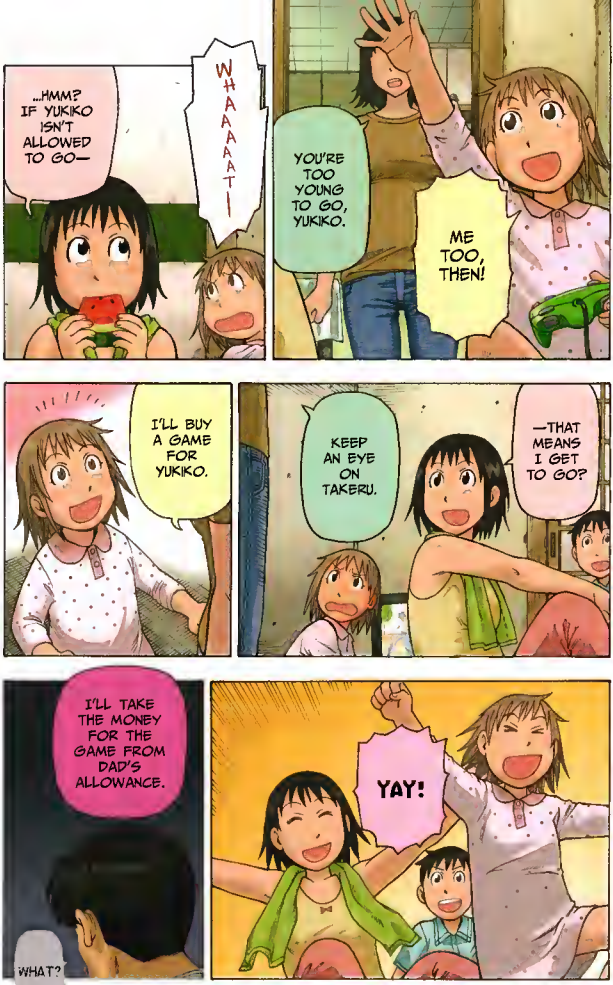
CAN I GO ON A TREA-SURE HUNT?
DAD, IS IT OKAY?
PLEASE... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND ANY TREASURE.

SO YOU PAID 2,000 YEN FOR THIS THING...


IT'S ONLY TWO HOURS BY TRAIN.
I'LL TAKE KON-SENPAI AND A FEW OTHER PEOPLE.
IF YOU GO ON A TRIP BY YOURSELF, YOU'LL DIE!
AM I REALLY SO UNDEPEND-ABLE?!


DON'T BLAME ME. I DON'T GET SUMMERS OFF.
AND AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE VISITING YOUR MOM'S RELATIVES IN AUGUST?
BESIDES, DAD, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR NOT TAKING US ANYWHERE...

BOOK: POISON ISLAND TREASURE HUNTERS
MARTIN B. STONE


..HMM? IF YUKIKO ISN'T ALLOWED TO GO—
WHAAAAAT!
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO GO, YUKIKO.
ME TOO, THEN!
I'LL BUY A GAME FOR YUKIKO.
KEEP AN EYE ON TAKERU.
—THAT MEANS I GET TO GO?
I'LL TAKE THE MONEY FOR THE GAME FROM DAD'S ALLOWANCE.
WHAT?
YAY!

CHAPTER 29
ARASHIYAMA TREASURE HUNTERS

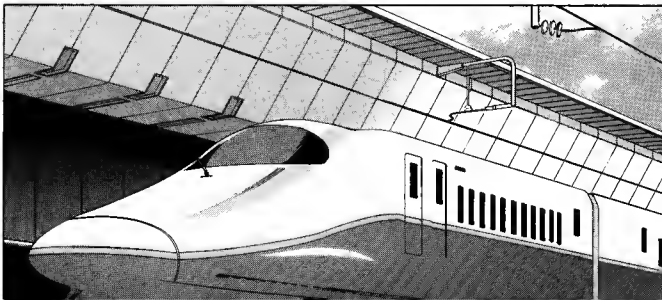
東京駅
BUILDING: TOKYO STATION
IT'S 8:00!
IT'S 9:30, YOU FOOL.
mayo
S
I JUST WANTED TO DO A ROLL CALL...
OH, YEAH, YEAH. SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ROLL CALL. EVERY-ONE HERE?

WAIT... WERE YOU EXPECTING SANADA-KUN?!

THE ONE BOY JOINING US IS HOTORI'S BROTHER...?
WHAT'S WRONG?

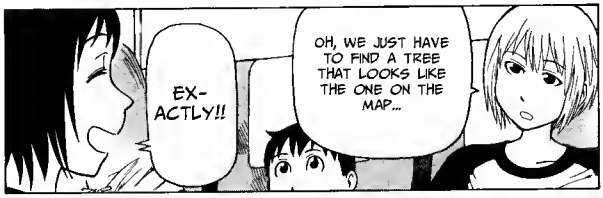
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET'S GO.
WHAT?!! YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE?!

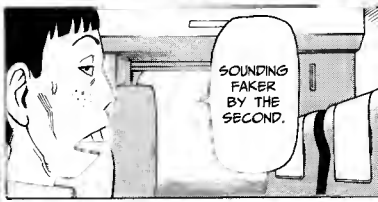
YEP, YEP. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CHECK FIRST.
YOU'RE RIGHT... IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT CHECKING FIRST...

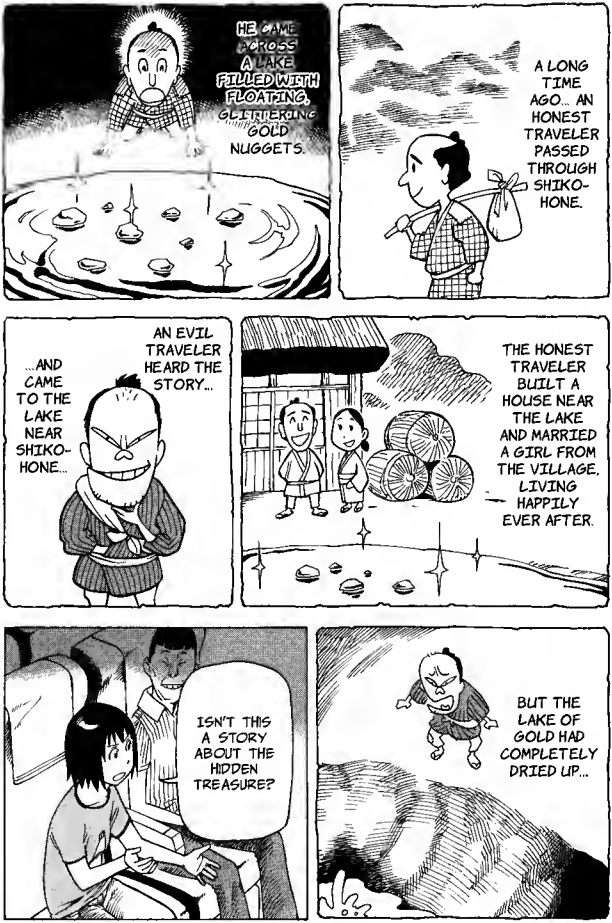


I'LL GIVE A BRIEF EXPLANATION ON THE ORIGIN OF THIS TREASURE MAP.
SHIZUKA-NEECHAN FROM THE ANTIQUE STORE...
THIS IS VERY NICE.
YOU HAVE GOOD TASTE.
...BOUGHT A POT AT AN ANTIQUE FAIR, AND THE SELLER THREW IN THIS MAP.
PLEASE TAKE THIS AS WELL.
...THIS SOUNDS VERY FAKE.
THE MAN WHO SOLD HER THE POT WAS FROM A VILLAGE CALLED SHIKOHONE IN G PREFECTURE.

CUP. EGGPLANT STEAK



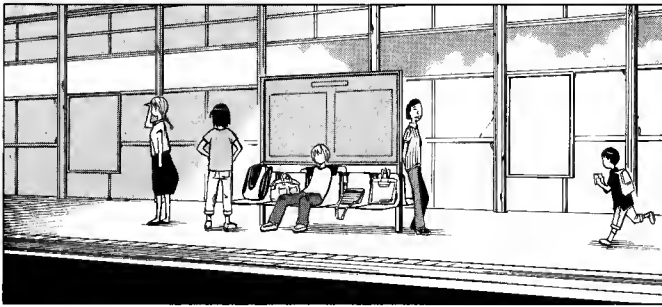



HE CAME ACROSS A LAKE FILLED WITH FLOATING, GLITTERING GOLD NUGGETS.
A LONG TIME AGO... AN HONEST TRAVELER PASSED THROUGH SHIKO-HONE.
AN EVIL TRAVELER HEARD THE STORY...
...AND CAME TO THE LAKE NEAR SHIKO-HONE...
THE HONEST TRAVELER BUILT A HOUSE NEAR THE LAKE AND MARRIED A GIRL FROM THE VILLAGE. LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
ISN'T THIS A STORY ABOUT THE HIDDEN TREASURE?
BUT THE LAKE OF GOLD HAD COMPLETELY DRIED UP...

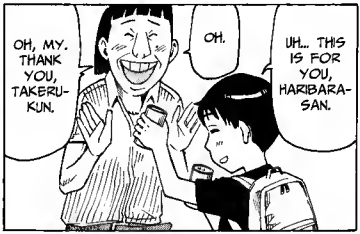
SIS, GOLD DOESN'T FLOAT.
HM?
FLOAT-ING.
NOW WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE MAP IS FAKE.
...I...
THAT'S RIGHT. THE GOAL IS TO HAVE FUN ON THIS TRIP.
WHATEVER. I WASN'T PLANNING ON LOOKING FOR TREASURE ANYWAY.

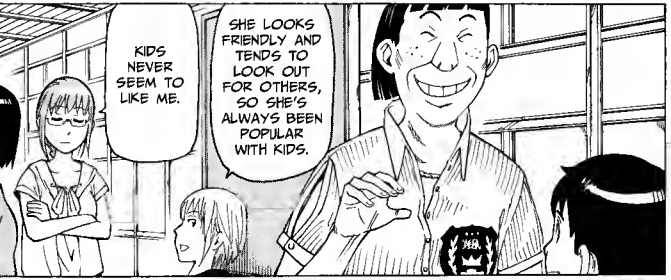
THAT WON'T DO MUCH GOOD. NORMALLY, YOU NEED A YUMBO FOR THIS.
WOW, TAKERU-KUN. YOU BROUGHT A SHOVEL.
...WANT TO LOOK!
YUMBO...?
YUMBO...?
IT'S ANOTHER NAME FOR A FORKLIFT.

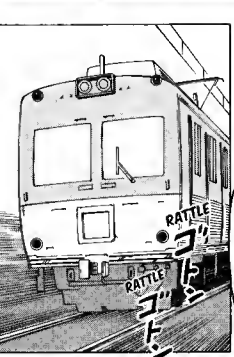
SO HOT ...
LET'S BUY LUNCH FIRST.
WHICH WAY DO WE GO FOR OUR NEXT TRAIN?!

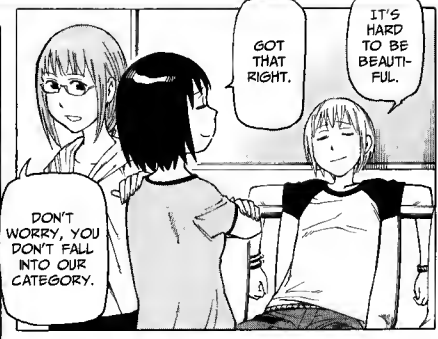


...TAKERU AND HARIBARA-SAN ARE BONDING!


OH, MY. THANK YOU, TAKERU-KUN.
OH.
UH... THIS IS FOR YOU, HARIBARA-SAN.

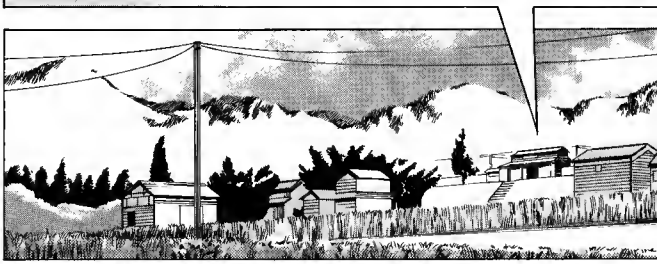

KIDS NEVER SEEM TO LIKE ME.
SHE LOOKS FRIENDLY AND TENDS TO LOOK OUT FOR OTHERS, SO SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN POPULAR WITH KIDS.


RATTLE
ゴト
RATTLE
ゴト

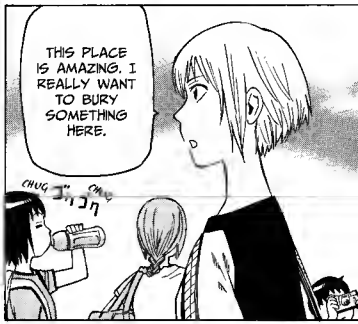

DON'T WORRY, YOU DON'T FALL INTO OUR CATEGORY.
GOT THAT RIGHT.
IT'S HARD TO BE BEAUTIFUL.

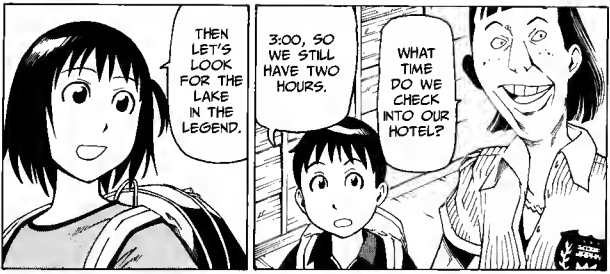
SHIKO-
HONE—
SHIKO-
HONE—

鬼保根
SHIKOHONE



THIS PLACE IS A LITTLE SUFFOCATING, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS.
GASP!

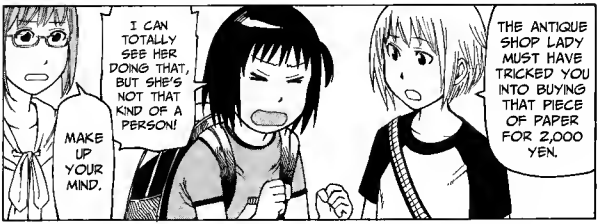

THIS PLACE IS AMAZING. I REALLY WANT TO BURY SOMETHING HERE.
CHUG
ゴクゴク
CHUG

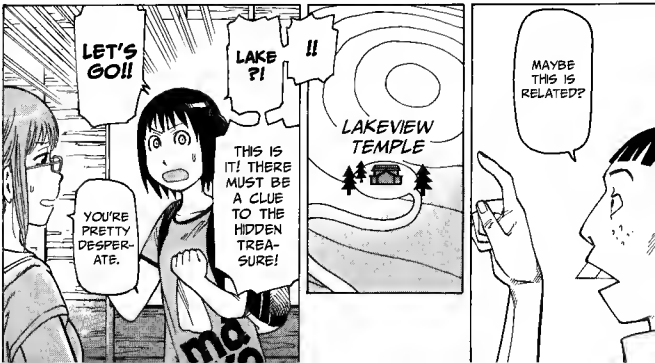

WHAT TIME DO WE CHECK INTO OUR HOTEL?
3:00, SO WE STILL HAVE TWO HOURS.
THEN LET'S LOOK FOR THE LAKE IN THE LEGEND.

鬼保根
THERE'S A MAP HERE.

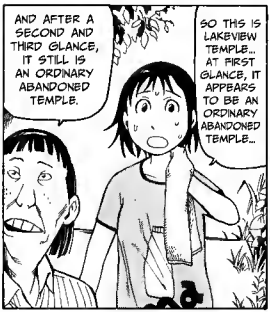
鬼

MAP: VILLAGE OF SHIKOHONE


I CAN TOTALLY SEE HER DOING THAT, BUT SHE'S NOT THAT KIND OF A PERSON!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
THE ANTIQUE SHOP LADY MUST HAVE TRICKED YOU INTO BUYING THAT PIECE OF PAPER FOR 2,000 YEN.



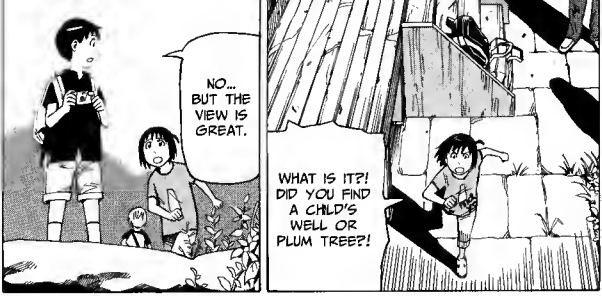
I'M GETTING WORRIED, SO COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT OUR HOTEL IS LIKE?
HOTEL? WE'RE STAYING AT A B&B.
BUZZZZ
CHIRP
BUZZZ
WHISTLE
.....
.....
YOU TOLD ME WE WERE GOING ON A TRIP WITH A BOY I KNEW WELL AND STAYING AT A RESORT HOTEL...
WE CAN BURY HOTORI IN THE HOLE WHERE THE TREASURE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AND LEAVE HER THERE.
SURE.
DRIZZLE
DRIZZLE

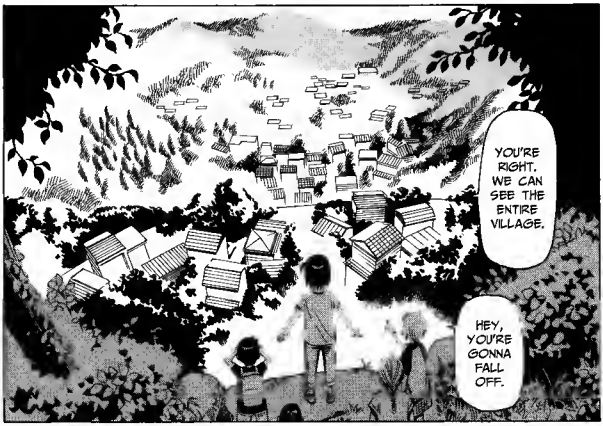

SO THIS IS LAKEVIEW TEMPLE... AT FIRST GLANCE, IT APPEARS TO BE AN ORDINARY ABANDONED TEMPLE...
AND AFTER A SECOND AND THIRD GLANCE, IT STILL IS AN ORDINARY ABANDONED TEMPLE.

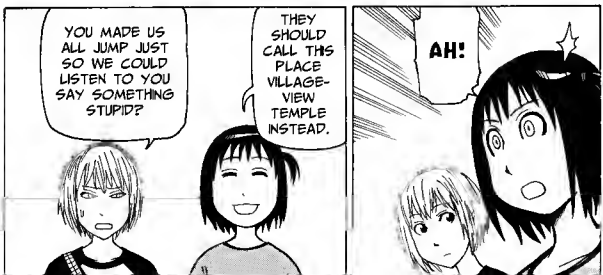
OH, THAT WAS EASY ENOUGH.

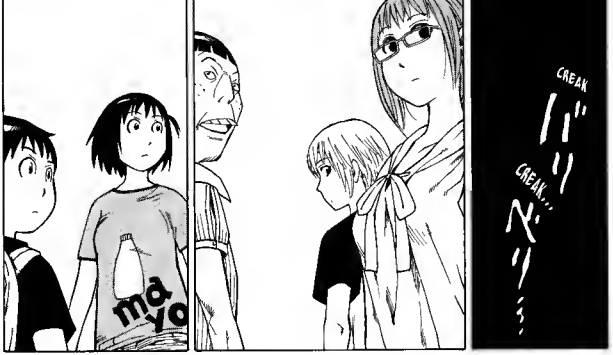
SIS, OVER HERE!

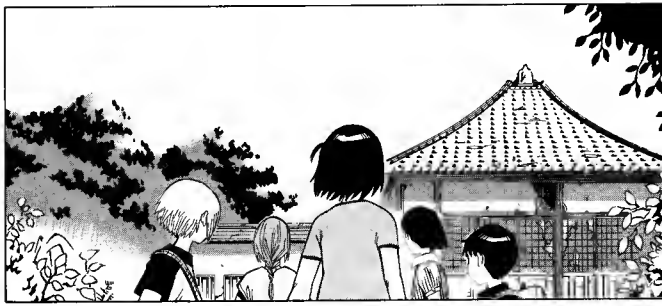
TATSUNO, YOU'VE FALLEN OUT OF SHAPE SINCE QUITTING THE TEAM.
PANT— HOT. PAINFUL.
GASP— GASP—


NO... BUT THE VIEW IS GREAT.
WHAT IS IT?! DID YOU FIND A CHILD'S WELL OR PLUM TREE?!


YOU'RE RIGHT. WE CAN SEE THE ENTIRE VILLAGE.
HEY, YOU'RE GONNA FALL OFF.

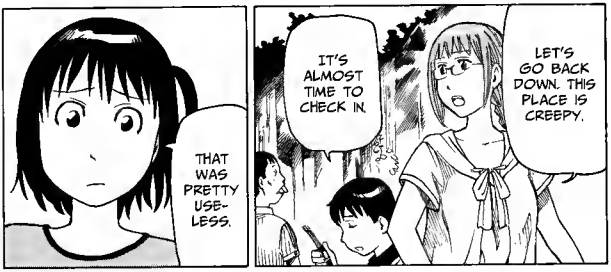

YOU MADE US ALL JUMP JUST SO WE COULD LISTEN TO YOU SAY SOMETHING STUPID?
THEY SHOULD CALL THIS PLACE VILLAGE-VIEW TEMPLE INSTEAD.
AH!

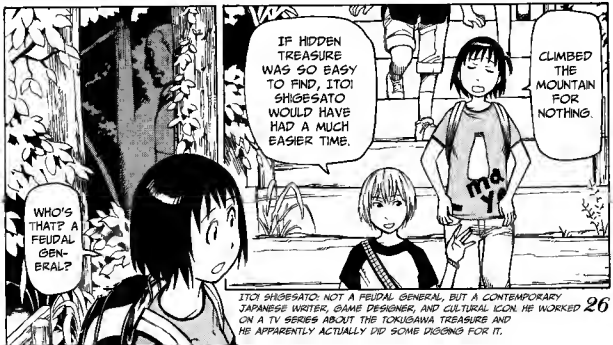

CREAK
ギィ
CREAK...
ギィ...
mayo



I JUST HEARD A STRANGE SOUND COMING FROM OVER HERE.

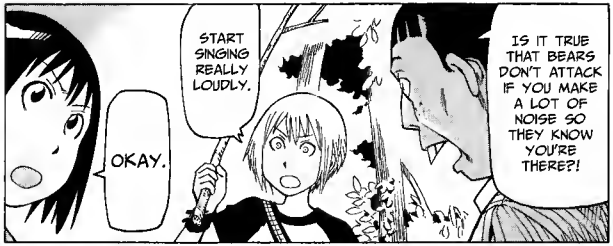
SCARF: TOSHIZOU




WHO'S THAT? A FEUDAL GEN-BRAL?
IF HIDDEN TREASURE WAS SO EASY TO FIND, ITO! SHIGESATO WOULD HAVE HAD A MUCH EASIER TIME.
CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN FOR NOTHING.

ITO! SHIGESATO: NOT A FEUDAL GENERAL, BUT A CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE WRITER, GAME DESIGNER, AND CULTURAL ICON. HE WORKED ON A TV SERIES ABOUT THE TOKUGAWA TREASURE AND HE APPARENTLY ACTUALLY DID SOME DIGGING FOR IT.

GAH—?!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HEY.
HE MEN-TIONED THAT THERE ARE BEARS.
ギャア
CAW!
CAW!
OH, JUST A BIRD.
IF WE'RE GOING TO BE EATEN BY BEARS, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY FACE REALITY.
GET A CLUE, GOOFUTABA!!
I WAS TRYING TO PRETEND THAT I NEVER HEARD HIM SAY THAT!!

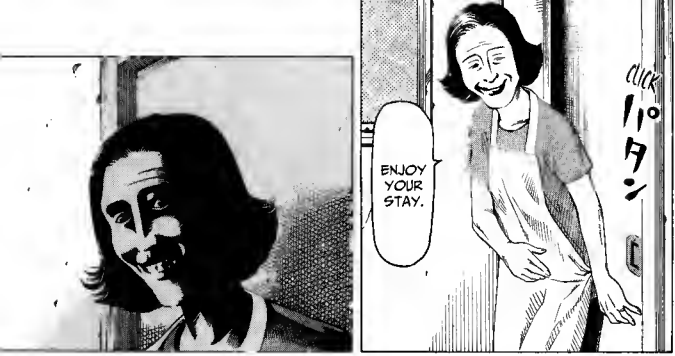


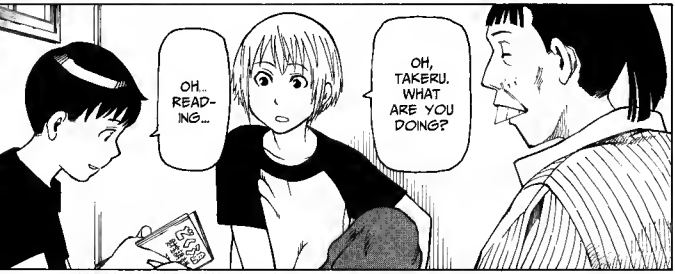
SIGN: BEWARE OF BEARS

THE SONG MOTOKI STARTS SINGING IS A POPULAR JAPANESE CHILDREN'S SONG THAT GOES SOMETHING LIKE, "ONE DAY IN THE FOREST, I MET A BEAR..." SO WHILE SHE DIDN'T FORCE TATSUNO TO SING ABOUT BEARS, HER CHOICE OF SONG CLEARLY SUGGESTED IT.

YEP, EVEN HER FACE LOOKS LIKE HIS.
YOU'RE LIKE DORAE-MON.
LET'S DIG AROUND A BIT.
DID I BRING ANYTHING THAT MAKES A LOT OF NOISE?
DORAEMON: A CARTOON ROBOT CAT. HE HAS A FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL POCKET FROM WHICH HE CAN PULL ALL SORTS OF HELPFUL GADGETS.
WHISTLE!
TA-DAAAA
"ピィヤピィヤーン"
GRR.
ヒョロロロ TWEET
ヒョロロロ TWEET
ヒョロロロロ TWEEEET
THAT'S OUR DETEC-TIVE-IN-TRAINING AT WORK!
THIS IS ONE OF THE HIGH-LIGHTS IN HOTORI'S LIFE!
NICE ONE! YOU ACTUALLY MADE YOUR-SELF USEFUL FOR ONCE!

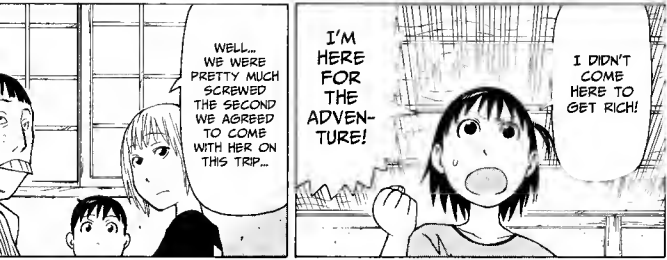
SIGNS: BEE HONEYCOMB





BOOK: POISON ISLAND TREASURE HUNTERS

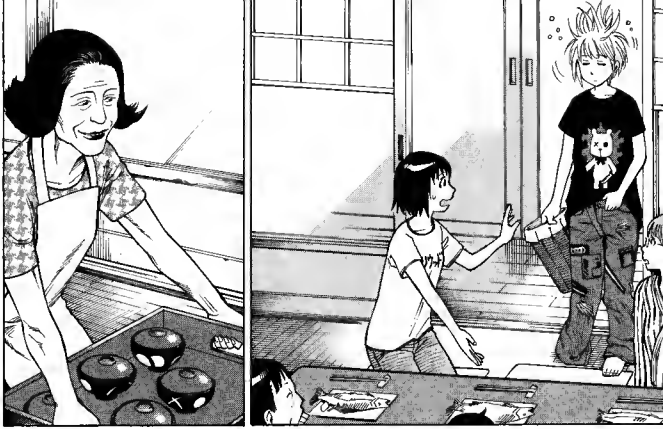
I ALSO BROUGHT THIS BOOK.
I'M GOING TO WRITE MY SUMMER REPORT FOR SCHOOL ON THIS TREASURE HUNT.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR SISTER, YET SOMEHOW, YOU LOOK SMART...
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
UH... "NUMBER ONE, BEFORE SEEKING TREASURE, YOU MUST SEEK KNOWLEDGE."
TREASURE HUNTING MANUAL...? WHAT DOES IT SAY?
...I GUESS IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.
"BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT, IT'S CRITICAL TO GATHER ACCURATE INFORMATION FIRST."

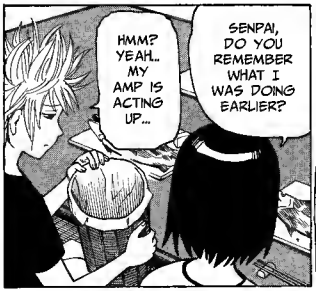

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO GET RICH!
I'M HERE FOR THE ADVEN-TURE!
WELL... WE WERE PRETTY MUCH SCREWED THE SECOND WE AGREED TO COME WITH HER ON THIS TRIP...

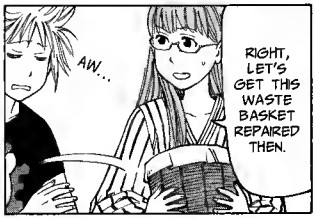
SIGN: B&B HONEYCOMB

HOTORI'S SHIRT: HOLLYWOOD

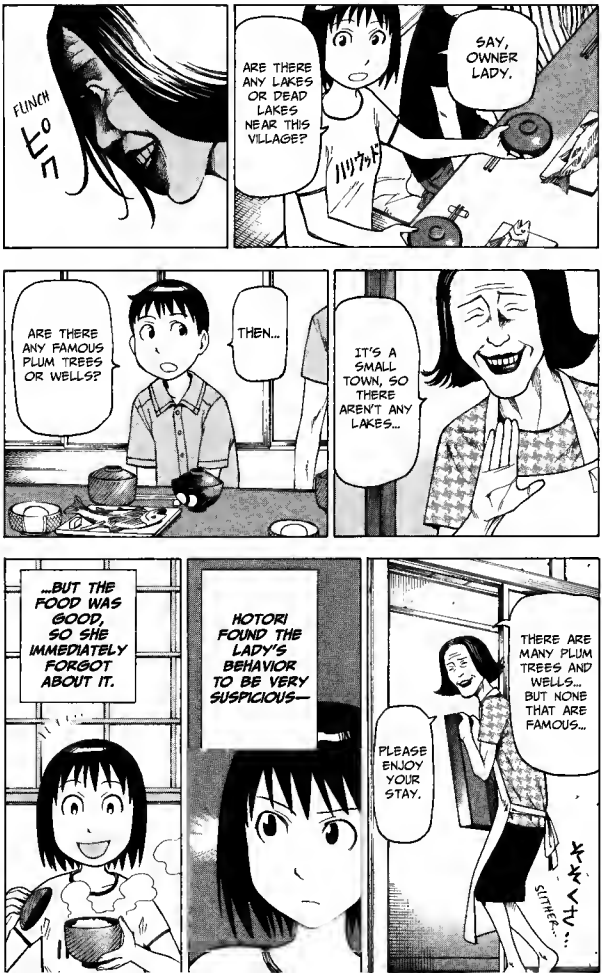
I WOULD SAY THEY'RE SUFFERING FROM...
LOW BLOOD PRES-SURE.
Get-ting...
Get...
...in a sec... up...
I'm getting
SUPER LOW BLOOD PRES-SURE.
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
OH, THEY'RE STILL ASLEEP.
VOMITO
HEH... SO I CAN REMOVE KON-SENPAI'S UNDERWEAR...
...AND SHE WON'T GET MAD AT ME?!
ペロ
LIFT
SHE WON'T DO ANY-THING NOW...
...BUT ONCE SHE'S AWAKE, EXPECT A CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT!
GUESS I WON'T.



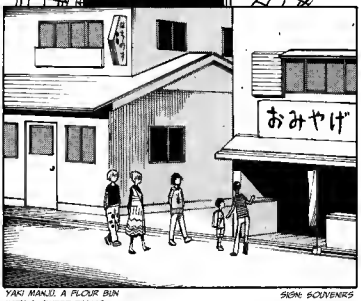

HMM? YEAH.. MY AMP IS ACTING UP...
SENPAI, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I WAS DOING EARLIER?


AW...
RIGHT, LET'S GET THIS WASTE BASKET REPAIRED THEN.

WOW, YOUR HAIR IS CRAZY. LIKE YOU'RE SO MAD THAT YOUR "HAIR IS STANDING ON END" OR SOMETHING...
MAYBE SHE'S MAD BECAUSE YOU WERE TRYING TO PULL A PRANK ON HER?
ハリヴッド

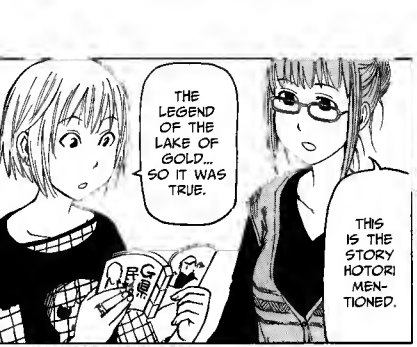

FLINCH
ビク
ARE THERE ANY LAKES OR DEAD LAKES NEAR THIS VILLAGE?
SAY, OWNER LADY.
ハリウッド
ARE THERE ANY FAMOUS PLUM TREES OR WELLS?
THEN...
IT'S A SMALL TOWN, SO THERE AREN'T ANY LAKES...
...BUT THE FOOD WAS GOOD, SO SHE IMMEDIATELY FORGOT ABOUT IT.
HOTORI FOUND THE LADY'S BEHAVIOR TO BE VERY SUSPICIOUS—
PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY.
THERE ARE MANY PLUM TREES AND WELLS... BUT NONE THAT ARE FAMOUS...
SLITHER...
ヤヤくん

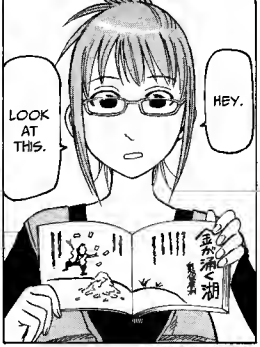
KONJAC CASTELLA. SPONGE CAKE MADE OF GELATIN SUBSTANCE DERIVED FROM KONJAC ROOT.



YAKI MANJU. A FLOUR BUN WITH A SWEET FILLING.

SIGN: SOUVENIRS

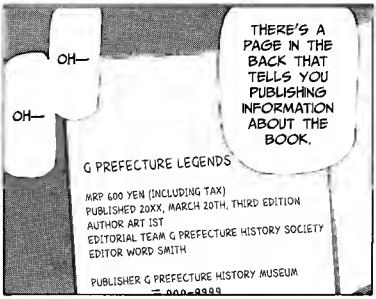

THE LEGEND OF THE LAKE OF GOLD... SO IT WAS TRUE.
THIS IS THE STORY HOTORI MENTIONED.
BOOK: G PREFECTURE LEGENDS

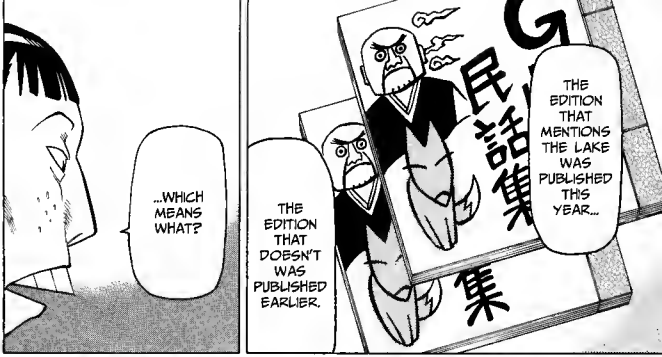

HEY.
LOOK AT THIS.
金秋の湖
PAGE: LAKE OF GOLD

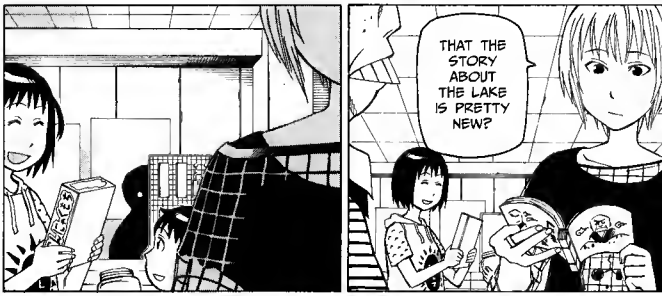
COVER?
LET ME SEE THE BACK.

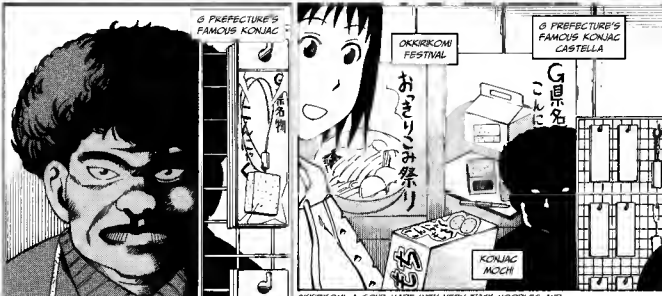
WHAT?! IT'S NOT IN THIS BOOK?! BUT THEY'RE THE SAME!

...I SEE NOW.


OH—
OH—
THERE'S A PAGE IN THE BACK THAT TELLS YOU PUBLISHING INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOOK.
G PREFECTURE LEGENDS
MRP 600 YEN (INCLUDING TAX)
PUBLISHED 20XX, MARCH 20TH, THIRD EDITION
AUTHOR ART IST
EDITORIAL TEAM G PREFECTURE HISTORY SOCIETY
EDITOR WORD SMITH
PUBLISHER G PREFECTURE HISTORY MUSEUM



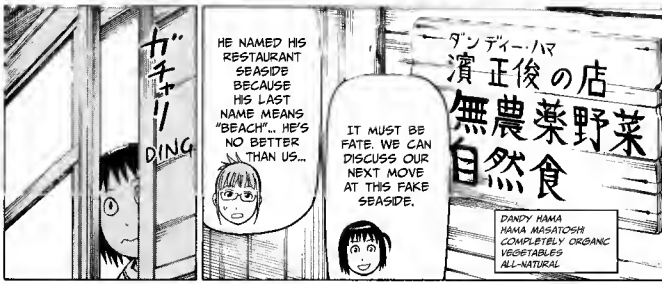




OKKIRIKOMI: A SOUP MADE WITH VERY THICK NOODLES AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES. A GUNMA PREFECTURE SPECIALTY.
MOCHI: A STICKY RICE BUN WITH SWEET FILLING

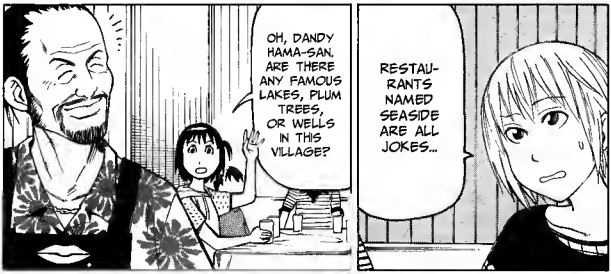
I'M GETTING HUNGRY.
SINCE WE DIDN'T HAVE BREAK-FAST.
YOU DON'T REMEM-BER?!
WE HAD BREAK-FAST AT THE B&B!!
HUH?
OH, NOW I REMEM-BER.
TELL US WHAT THE MENU WAS.
MISO BUTTER RAMEN WITH LOTS OF CORN AND SEAWEED!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO DETAILED WHEN YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRONG?
APOLOGIZE TO THE LADIES WHO MADE OUR BREAKFAST, LITTLE MISS GOLDEN HAIR ON END!!
WHAT? I'LL RIP OUT THAT TOPKNOT OF YOURS, YOU TANUK!!!
EVERY-ONE! LOOK OVER THERE!!

ANOTHER CAFE NAMED SEASIDE THAT'S NOT BY THE OCEAN!!
OH?! A CAFE SEA-SIDE?!
COFFEE SEASIDE


ガチャリ
DING
HE NAMED HIS RESTAURANT SEASIDE BECAUSE HIS LAST NAME MEANS "BEACH"... HE'S NO BETTER THAN US...
IT MUST BE FATE. WE CAN DISCUSS OUR NEXT MOVE AT THIS FAKE SEASIDE.
ダンディー・ハマ
濱正俊の店
無農薬野菜
自然食
DANDY HAMA
HAMA MASATOSHI
COMPLETELY ORGANIC
VEGETABLES
ALL-NATURAL

OH? HAVEN'T SEEN YOU KIDS AROUND BEFORE.
WEL-COME.

NATURE IS GOOD. NATURE IS GREAT
--DANDY HAMA
自然はいいなあ 自然にかぎる
WE'RE TOURISTS FROM TOKYO!
OH, I SEE!
I HAVE A LARGE REPERTOIRE...
BUT SINCE I CAN ONLY USE THE VEGETABLES GROWING OUT BACK, I'D RECOMMEND THE CURRY...

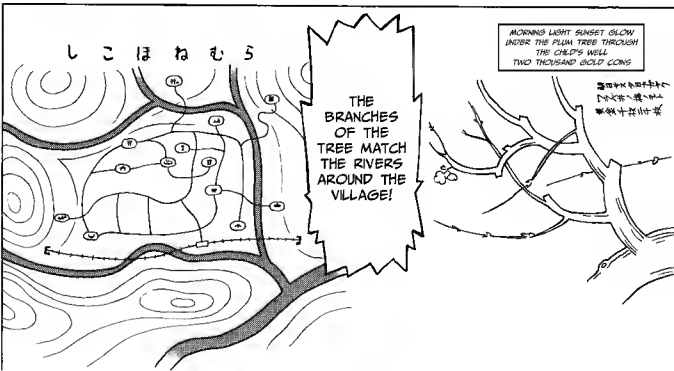

RESTAURANTS NAMED SEASIDE ARE ALL JOKES...
OH, DANDY HAMA-SAN. ARE THERE ANY FAMOUS LAKES, PLUM TREES, OR WELLS IN THIS VILLAGE?

I JUST MOVED HERE FROM TOKYO LAST YEAR, SO I WOULDN'T KNOW.
I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO START OVER IN A SMALL VILLAGE. HA HA HA HA HA!
OH.

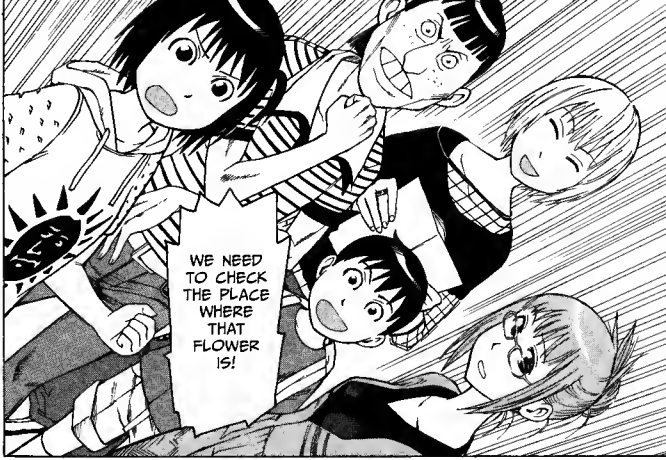
YOU'RE BEING PARANOID! THEY'RE PROBABLY CURIOUS BECAUSE THEY DON'T GET TOO MANY TOURISTS.
SAY, I KEEP GETTING THIS FEELING THAT THE VILLAGERS ARE WATCHING US.
もぐ MUNCH
..BUT THE SOUVENIR SHOP WAS PRETTY WELL STOCKED..
WE GO HOME TOMOR-ROW, SO TODAY IS OUR ONLY CHANCE!
LET'S TALK ABOUT THE TREASURE!
THIS PICTURE CAN'T BE FINISHED, EVEN IF IT TELLS US WHERE THE TREASURE IS BURIED.
ARE YOU SURE WE AREN'T MISSING A PAGE?

HEE HEE, I WISH IT WERE A MAP.
OH? IS THAT A TREASURE MAP?
IF WE ARE, WE COULD SEARCH THE ENTIRE VILLAGE AND NEVER FIND A THING.
I WISH.. IT WERE.. A MAP...?
THE FOOD WAS GREAT !!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, HOTORI?!

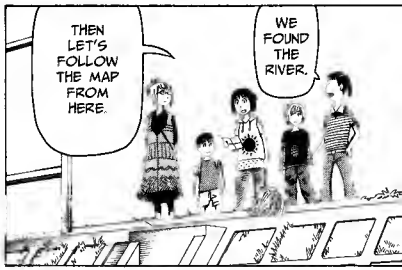
SIGN: SHIKOHONE


しこほねむら
THE BRANCHES OF THE TREE MATCH THE RIVERS AROUND THE VILLAGE!
MORNING LIGHT SUNSET GLOW
UNDER THE PLUM TREE THROUGH
THE CHILD'S WELL
TWO THOUSAND GOLD COINS

TOO PERFECT TO BE A COINCI-DENCE.
OH...! SHE'S RIGHT.
RIGHT?!
WHICH MEANS...
SO WE HAD A MAP ALL ALONG.
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE THIS EARLIER ...?!
TH-THE ONLY BRANCH THAT HAS A FLOWER IN BLOOM IS...
THE STORY ABOUT THE LAKE THREW ME OFF...

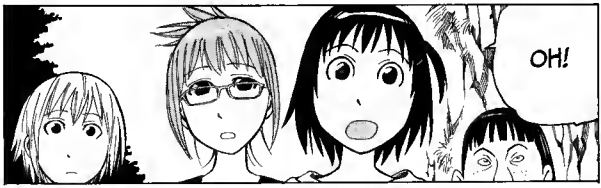

WE NEED TO CHECK THE PLACE WHERE THAT FLOWER IS!

FINALLY, A SIGN THAT THIS PICTURE IS AUTHENTIC!!


THEN LET'S FOLLOW THE MAP FROM HERE.
WE FOUND THE RIVER.

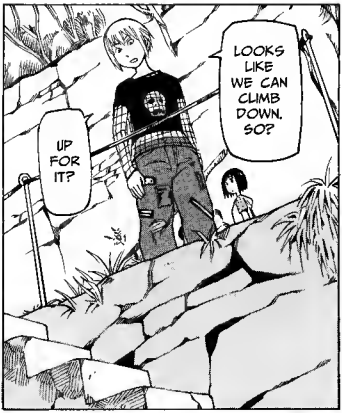
YES, SIR!
TAKE-RU! BUG SPRAY !!
WHOOSH
シュ
OKAY!!
MUST BE NICE TO HAVE SIBLINGS.
MAN, MY STOMACH HURTS NOW...
YEP.
APPAR-ENTLY, SHE THINKS THAT WAS FUNNY. AWESOME.
HEY.
DID YOU PRACTICE THAT?!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA
YEAH, HARIBARA HAS AN OLDER BROTHER WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE HER, AND TATSUNO HAS A BROTHER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONLY-CHILD HERE, SENPAI.
ME TOO, ME TOO.
HERE YOU GO, HARI-BARA-SAN.

THE VILLAGE IS SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS, SO WE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THEM...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'VE BEEN CLIMBING MOUNTAINS THIS WHOLE TIME...


OH!

A DEAD END!

...THIS IS NO LONGER A PLEASURE TRIP...

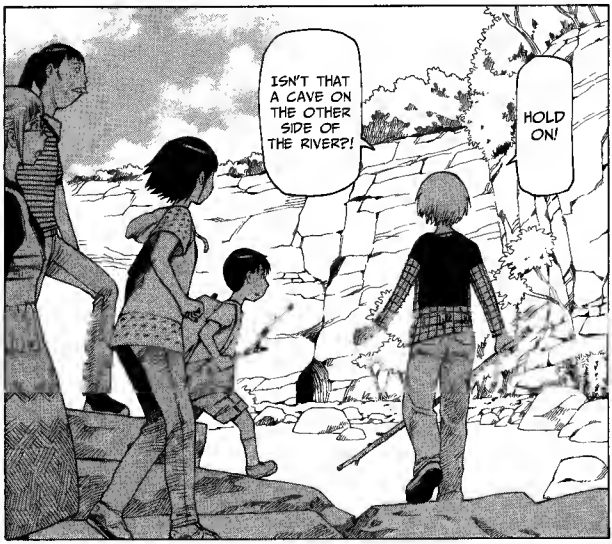

LOOKS LIKE WE CAN CLIMB DOWN. SO?
UP FOR IT?

IF YOU GO ON A TRIP BY YOURSELF, YOU'LL DIE!

IF WE DIE NOW, IT'S OUR OWN FAULT.

I JUST REMEMBERED HOW I HAD A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE IN FRONT OF MY OWN HOUSE...

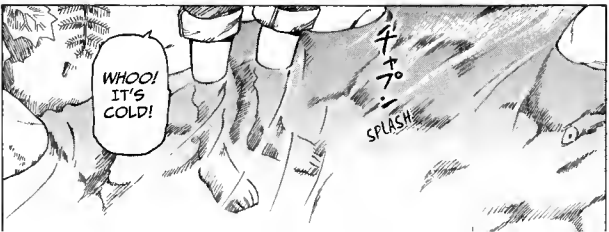
THIS TERRAIN IS GETTING BRUTAL.
I THINK WE'RE ALMOST TO THE FLOWER...
LET'S TURN BACK. THIS PLACE IS DANGEROUS!
YEAH, A REAL MAN KNOWS WHEN TO PULL OUT. ...BUT I'M A GIRL.

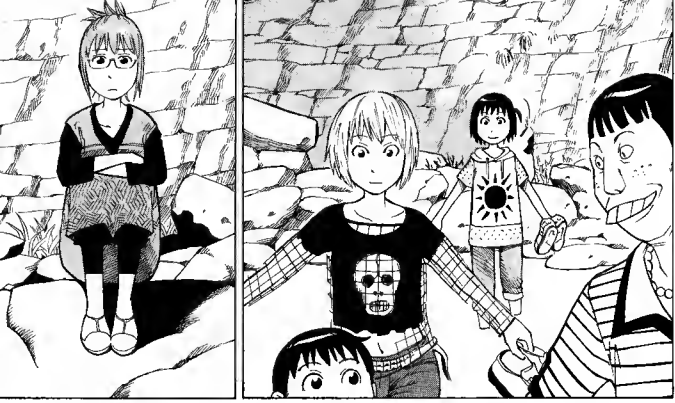

HOLD ON!
ISN'T THAT A CAVE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER?!

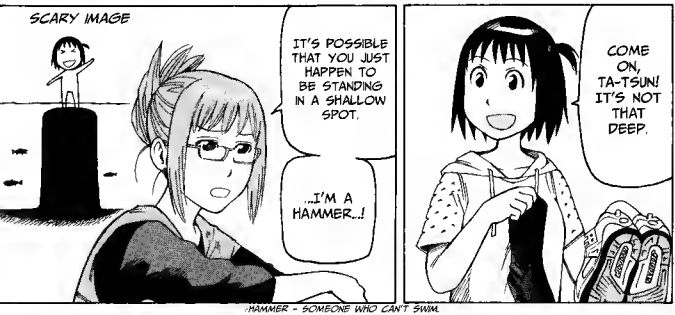
ISN'T IT TIME WE BROUGHT DANDY HAMA INTO THE LOOP?

IT'S TOO EARLY.
BUT HE HAS SHOWN THAT HE LOVES THIS VILLAGE.
HE'S IN LOVE WITH THE IDEA OF LIVING IN A SMALL TOWN.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S WILLING TO WORK HARD FOR THE VILLAGE.

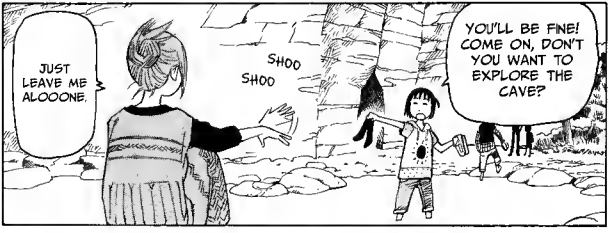
EVENTUALLY, THEY CAN JOIN US...
THIS WILL LEAD TO PEOPLE LIKE HAMA MOVING HERE.
FOR NOW, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON BRINGING IN MORE TOURISTS.
バサバサ
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
TOSHIZOU!
SLIDE
スッ


WHOO! IT'S COLD!
チャプン
SPLASH





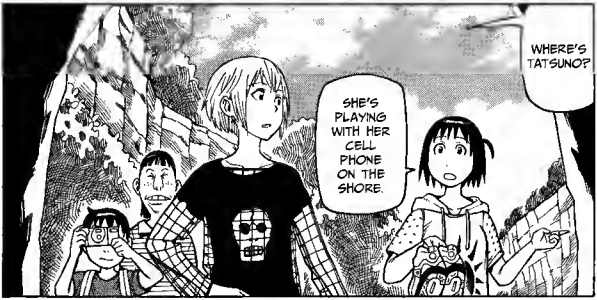
HAMMER - SOMEONE WHO CAN'T SWIM.



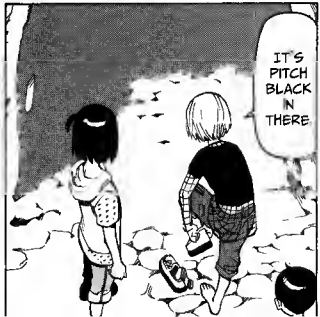
THAT'S A SURPRISE. I THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE A FAN OF HORROR MOVIES.

TATSUNO-SAN SCARES EASILY, SO SHE DOESN'T LIKE CAVES!

SHE LIKES WATCHING OTHER PEOPLE GET SCARED, BUT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO PUT HERSELF IN DANGER.


WHERE'S TATSUNO?
SHE'S PLAYING WITH HER CELL PHONE ON THE SHORE.

BEFORE WE ENTER THE CAVE, I'LL TEACH YOU THE LEFT-HAND RULE!!


IT'S PITCH BLACK IN THERE.

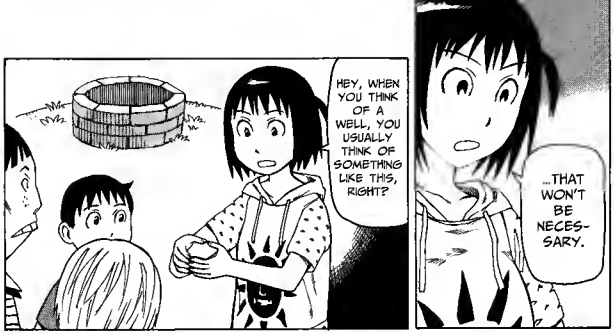
IF YOU KEEP YOUR LEFT HAND ON THE WALL, YOU WILL NEVER GET LOST!!
(ALSO WORKS WITH THE RIGHT HAND.)
WE KNOW.

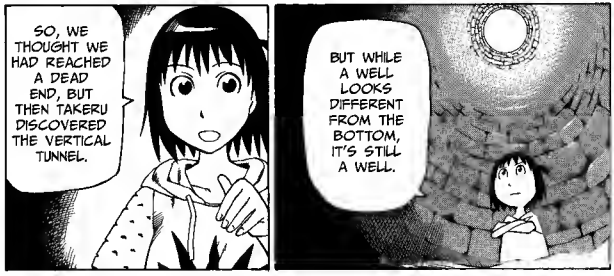
LET'S GET GOING! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT DANGERS ARE OUT THERE! STAY CLOSE TO ME!!
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S MORE DANGER-OUS TO STICK WITH YOU.

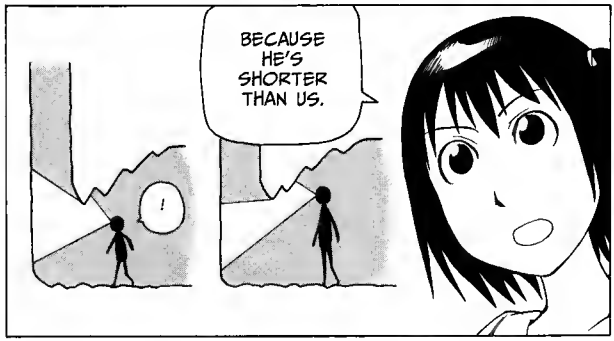
OH... RE-ALLY?
THEN THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO TEACH YOU.

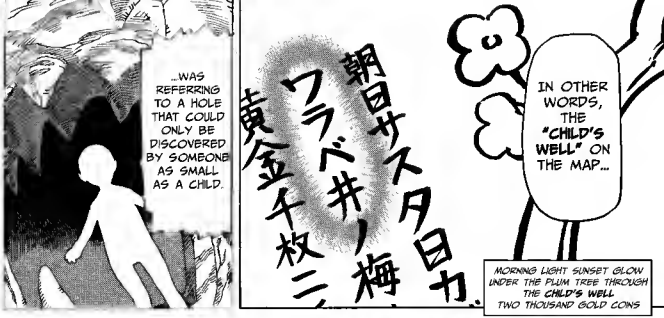
HUH?

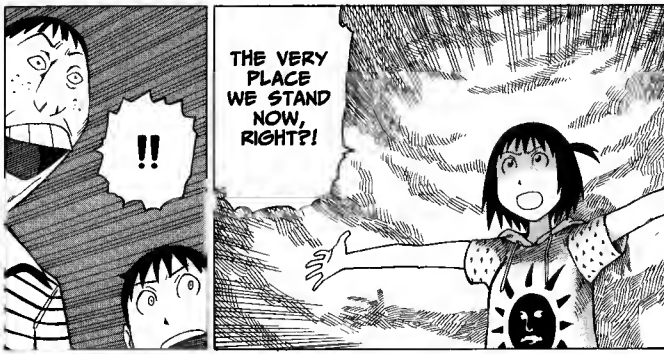
30 METERS: ABOUT 98 FT

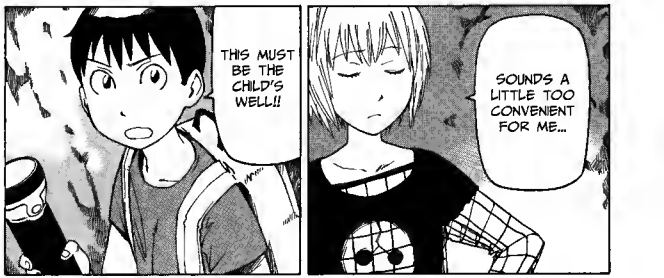

HEY, WHEN YOU THINK OF A WELL, YOU USUALLY THINK OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
..THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY.


SO, WE THOUGHT WE HAD REACHED A DEAD END, BUT THEN TAKERU DISCOVERED THE VERTICAL TUNNEL.
BUT WHILE A WELL LOOKS DIFFERENT FROM THE BOTTOM, IT'S STILL A WELL.


BECAUSE HE'S SHORTER THAN US.
!


...WAS REFERRING TO A HOLE THAT COULD ONLY BE DISCOVERED BY SOMEONE AS SMALL AS A CHILD.
朝日サスタ日カ、
ワラベ井ノ梅、
黄金千枚ニ、
IN OTHER WORDS, THE "CHILD'S WELL" ON THE MAP...
MORNING LIGHT SUNSET GLOW UNDER THE PLUM TREE THROUGH THE CHILD'S WELL TWO THOUSAND GOLD COINS


!!
THE VERY PLACE WE STAND NOW, RIGHT?!


THIS MUST BE THE CHILD'S WELL!!
SOUNDS A LITTLE TOO CONVENIENT FOR ME...

IF YOU LOOK BACK AT THE CAVE ENTRANCE—
AND...

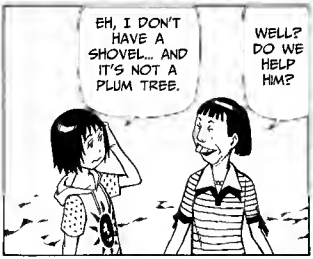
THAT MUST BE THE "PLUM TREE THROUGH THE CHILD'S WELL"!!

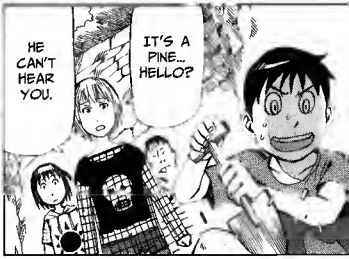
THERE'S A TREE!!

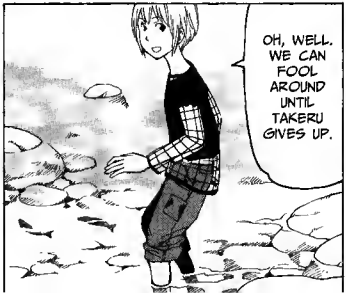
TAKERU, HOLD UP! THAT TREE IS...
WAIT, TAKERU-KUN!!

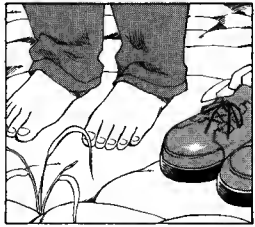
THE TREASURE IS BURIED UNDER-NEATH—!

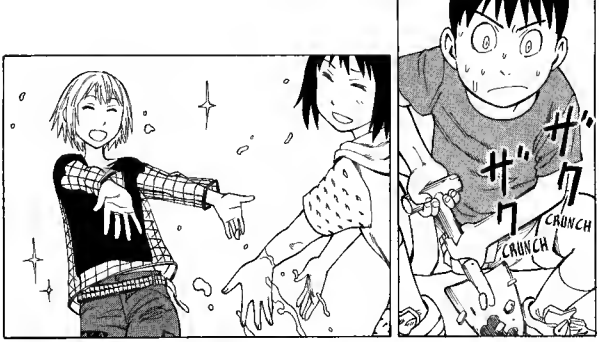
A PINE—!!!

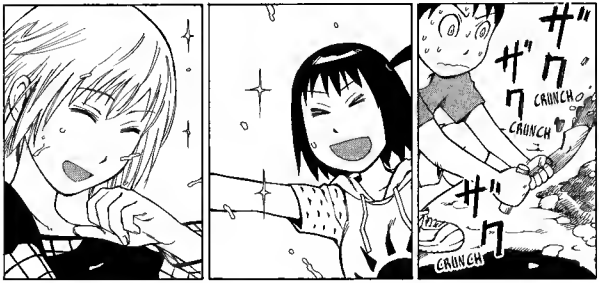

EH, I DON'T HAVE A SHOVEL... AND IT'S NOT A PLUM TREE.
WELL? DO WE HELP HIM?

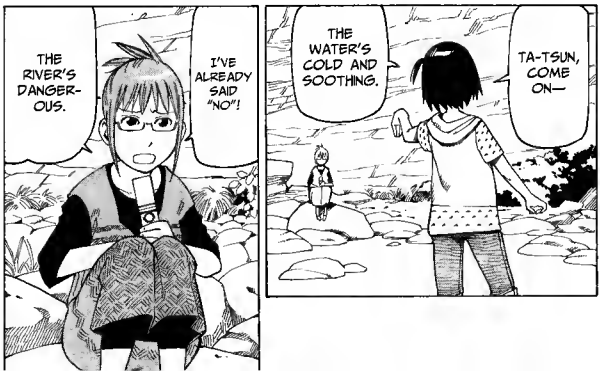

HE CAN'T HEAR YOU.
IT'S A PINE... HELLO?


OH, WELL. WE CAN FOOL AROUND UNTIL TAKERU GIVES UP.

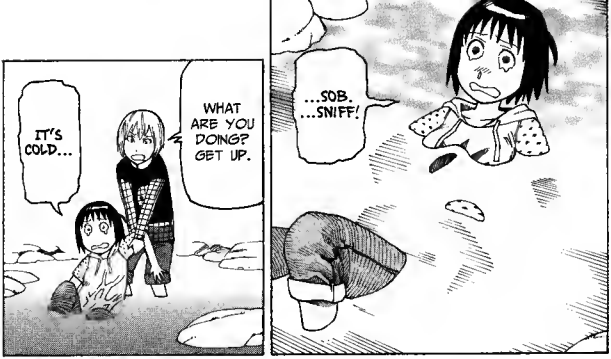


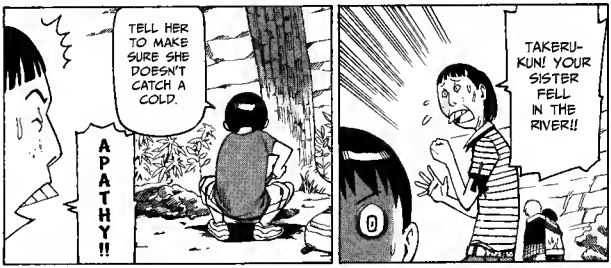

ザク
ザク
CRUNCH
CRUNCH


ザク
ザク
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
ザク
CRUNCH

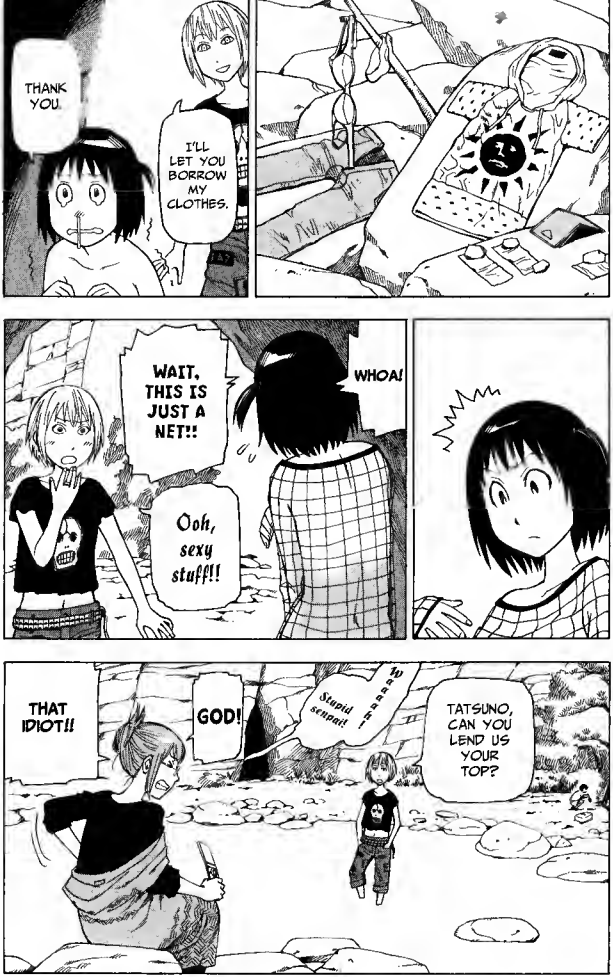

TA-TSUN, COME ON—
THE WATER'S COLD AND SOOTHING.
I'VE ALREADY SAID "NO"!
THE RIVER'S DANGER-OUS.

SLIP
つる
YEAH?
...ABOUT A SHALLOW RIVER?
WHAT COULD BE DANGER-OUS..
SPLASH
SPLASH
トプン
PLOP
...MAN.
HOTORI!
ARASHI-YAMA-SAN!!

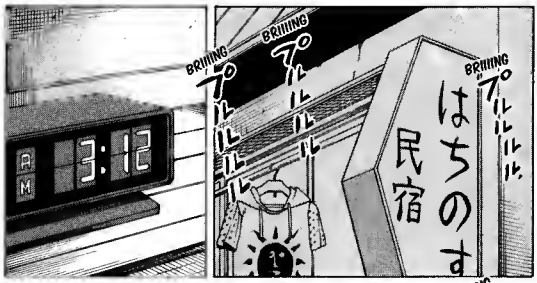

...SOB.
...SNIFF!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET UP.
IT'S COLD...


TAKERU-KUN! YOUR SISTER FELL IN THE RIVER!!
TELL HER TO MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T CATCH A COLD.
APATHY!!

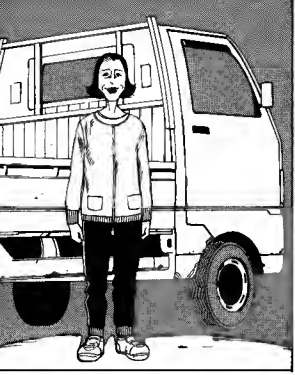
ARE YOU OKAY?
TOTALLY NOT OKAY, MAN... SNIFF.
(SHE STILL HAS TO ACT WEIRD.)
ギュ～～ウ
SQUEEEEZE
DRIP
ビチャ
バチャ
SPLOOSH


THANK YOU.
I'LL LET YOU BORROW MY CLOTHES.
WAIT, THIS IS JUST A NET!!
Ooh, sexy stuff!!
WHOA!
THAT IDIOT!!
GOD!
Stupid serpent!
Ah geez!
TATSUNO, CAN YOU LEND US YOUR TOP?

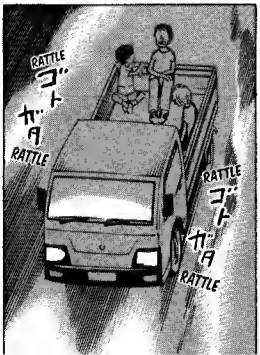
I FELL IN THE RIVER.
I DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING.
PRIZE:
PRETTY PIECE OF GLASS.
HEY, ACHING ARASHI-YAMAS! YOU'RE FALLING BEHIND.
PICK UP THE PACE!

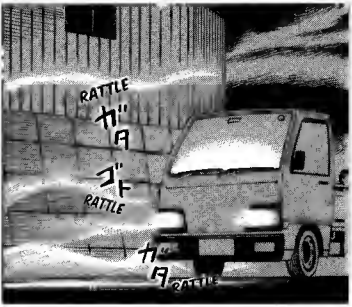


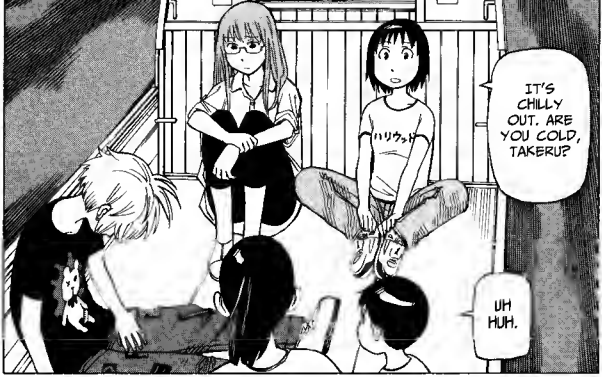
FRONT DESK: #821
OUTSIDE LINE: #01
THIS ROOM: #203

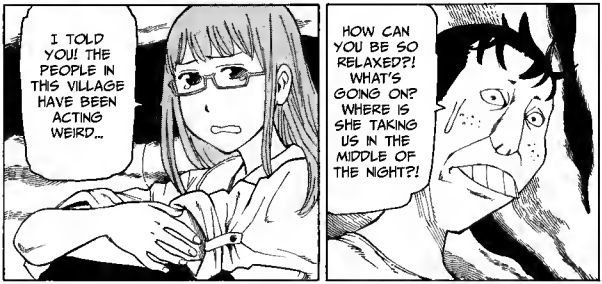


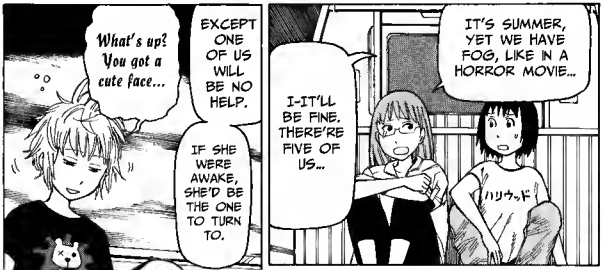
SIGN: BEE HONEYCOMB

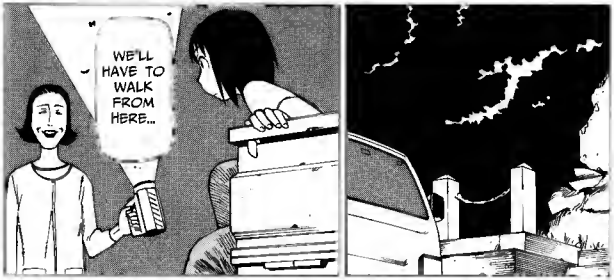


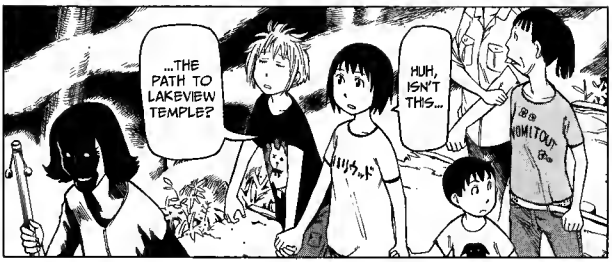


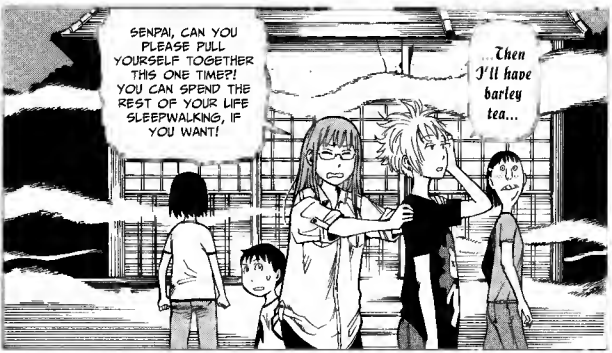

IT'S CHILLY OUT. ARE YOU COLD, TAKERU?
UH HUH.

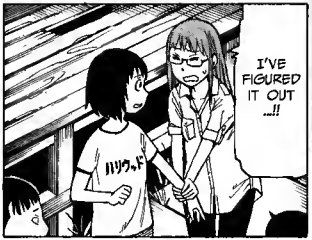

I TOLD YOU! THE PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE HAVE BEEN ACTING WEIRD...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO RELAXED?! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE IS SHE TAKING US IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?!

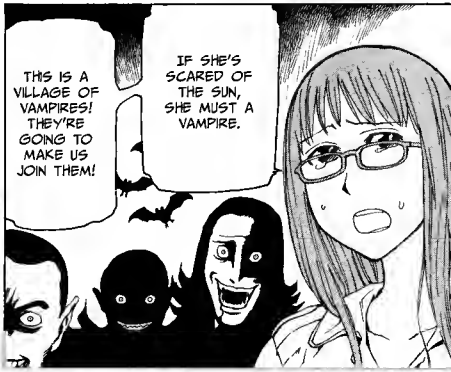

What's up? You got a cute face...
EXCEPT ONE OF US WILL BE NO HELP.
IF SHE WERE AWAKE, SHE'D BE THE ONE TO TURN TO.
I-IT'LL BE FINE. THERE'RE FIVE OF US...
IT'S SUMMER, YET WE HAVE FOG, LIKE IN A HORROR MOVIE...


WE'LL HAVE TO WALK FROM HERE...

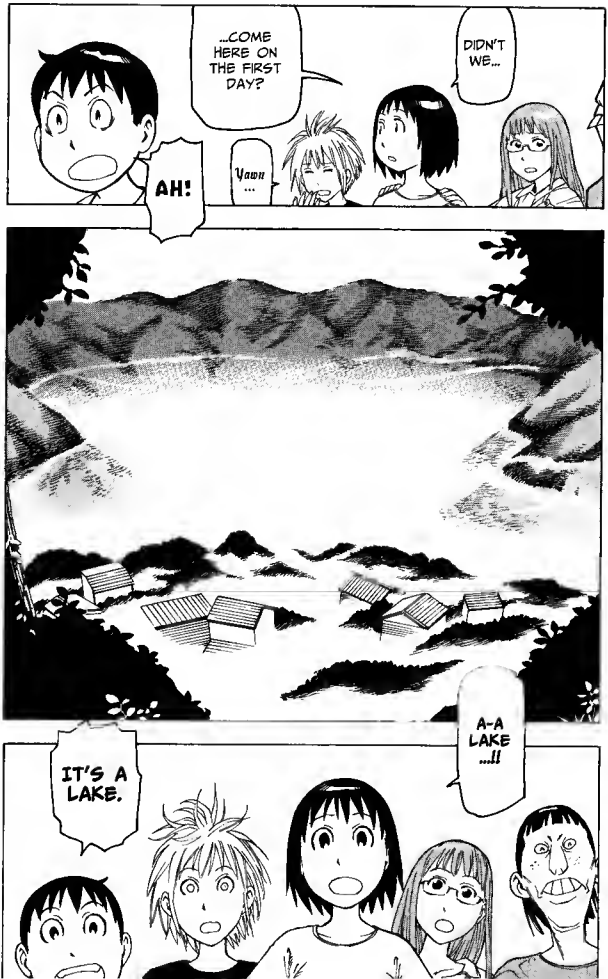

...THE PATH TO LAKEVIEW TEMPLE?
HUH, ISN'T THIS...

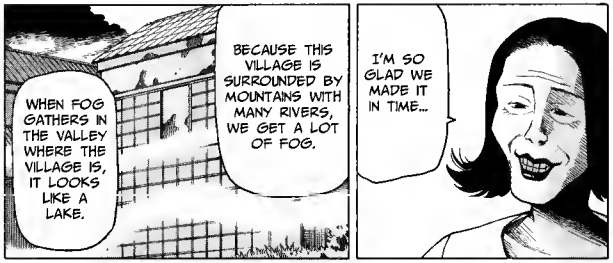

SENPAI, CAN YOU PLEASE PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER THIS ONE TIME?! YOU CAN SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE SLEEPWALKING, IF YOU WANT!
...Then I'll have barley tea...

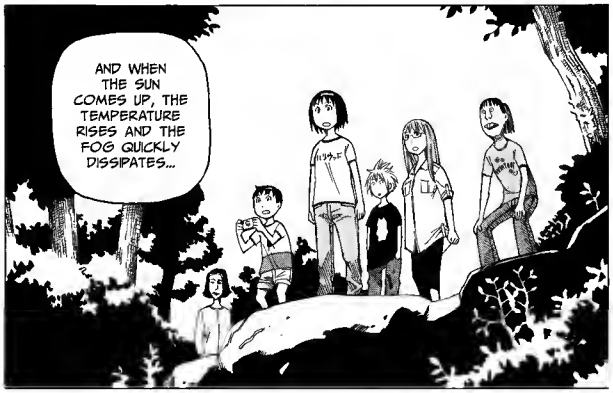


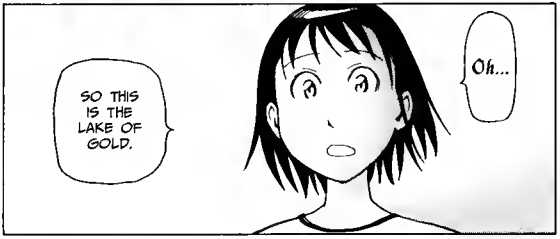


SIGN: BEWARE OF BEARS

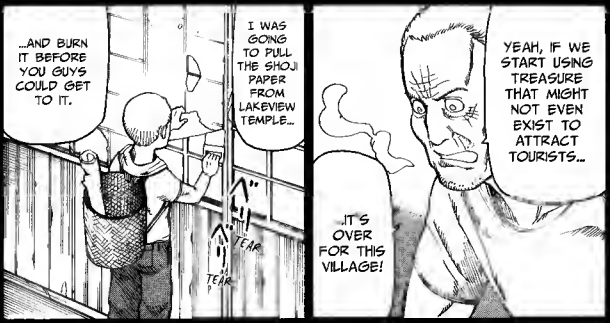

..COME HERE ON THE FIRST DAY?
DIDN'T WE...
Yawn ...
AH!
A-A LAKE ...!!
IT'S A LAKE.


WHEN FOG GATHERS IN THE VALLEY WHERE THE VILLAGE IS, IT LOOKS LIKE A LAKE.
BECAUSE THIS VILLAGE IS SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS WITH MANY RIVERS, WE GET A LOT OF FOG.
I'M SO GLAD WE MADE IT IN TIME...


AND WHEN THE SUN COMES UP, THE TEMPERATURE RISES AND THE FOG QUICKLY DISSIPATES...

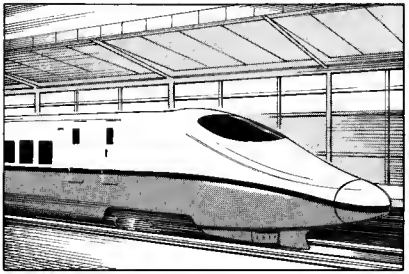

SO THIS IS THE LAKE OF GOLD.
Oh...

SHOJI PAPER: THE PAPER USED ON SLIDING SCREEN DOORS

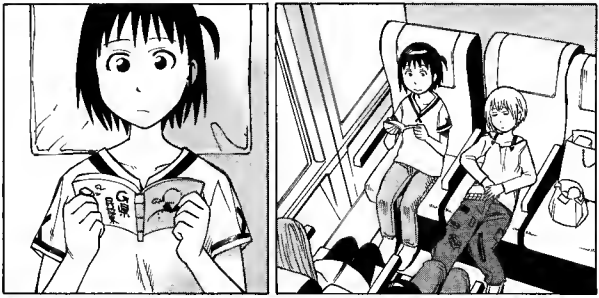

...AND BURN IT BEFORE YOU GUYS COULD GET TO IT.
I WAS GOING TO PULL THE SHOJI PAPER FROM LAKEVIEW TEMPLE...
TEAR
TEAR
YEAH, IF WE START USING TREASURE THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN EXIST TO ATTRACT TOURISTS...
IT'S OVER FOR THIS VILLAGE!

THAT MADE ME THINK THAT WE STILL HAVE A SHOT.
THOSE KIDS WERE HAVING FUN IN OUR VILLAGE...
BUT THAT'S WHEN I SAW THEM.
WE HAVE ENOUGH OLD PAPER...
...TO HAVE TOSHIZOU, THE MAYOR, ON OUR SIDE.
IT IS QUITE REASSURING...
WE CAN DISTRIBUTE THEM AT THE NEW YEAR'S ANTIQUE FAIR!!
...TO MAKE COPIES OF THE MAP.

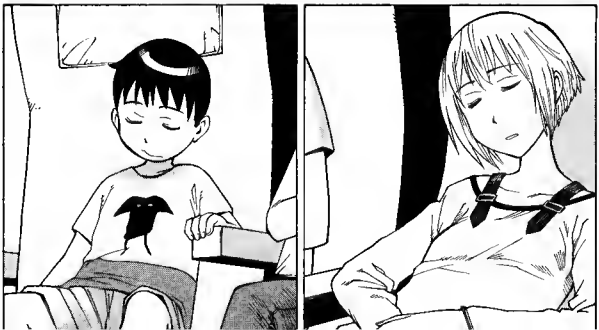
IT'LL BE HARD TO CONVINCE THEM TO LEAVE THOSE HOMES TO LIVE HERE.
THEY ALL HAVE THEIR OWN HOMES.
HOWEVER, WE DON'T WANT TO STAND AROUND GAWKING AT TOURISTS WHEN THEY COME.
THE WAY THINGS STAND NOW, OUR VILLAGE IS GOING TO DIE.
I KNOW! THE LAKE OF GOLD IS A WAY TO IMPROVE THEIR IMPRESSION OF OUR VILLAGE.
EVERYONE NEEDS TO KEEP THAT IN MIND!

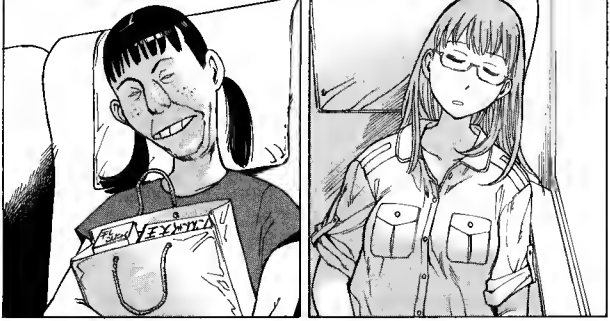


BOOK: 8 PREFECTURE LEGENDS

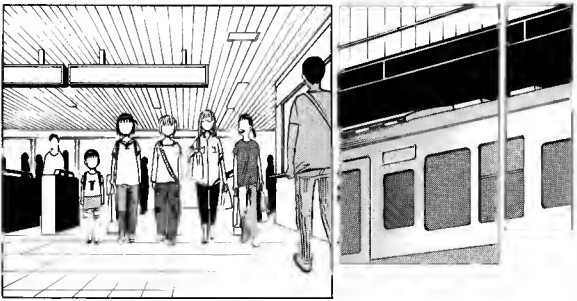


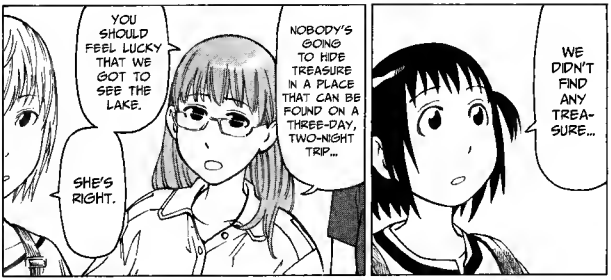
TRAVELERS WHO SETTLE DOWN IN THE VILLAGE ARE GOOD.

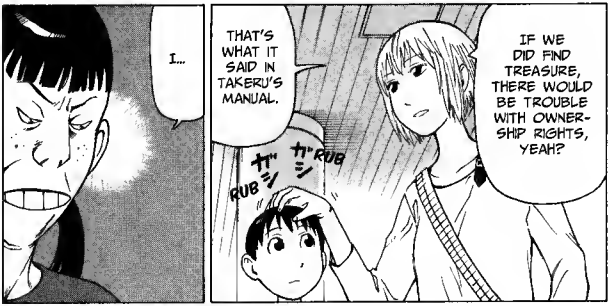


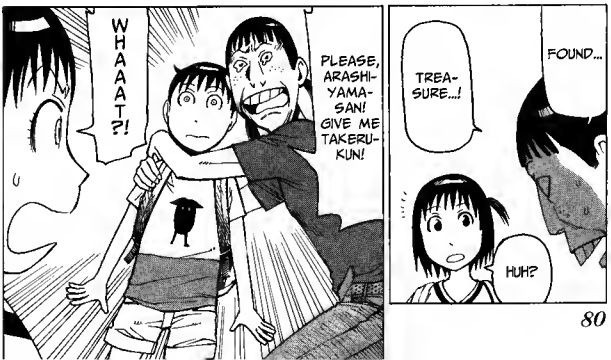


TRAVELERS WHO FIND NO VALUE IN THE VILLAGE ARE BAD.
—THE MORAL OF G PREFECTURE SHIKOHONE LAKE OF GOLD.

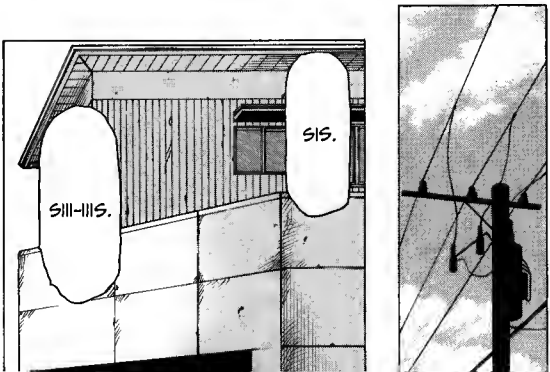


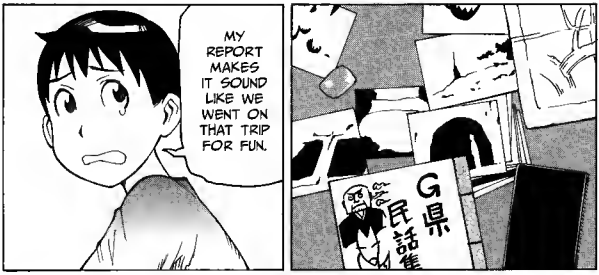

WE DIDN'T FIND ANY TREA-SURE...
NOBODY'S GOING TO HIDE TREASURE IN A PLACE THAT CAN BE FOUND ON A THREE-DAY, TWO-NIGHT TRIP...
YOU SHOULD FEEL LUCKY THAT WE GOT TO SEE THE LAKE.
SHE'S RIGHT.


IF WE DID FIND TREASURE, THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE WITH OWNER-SHIP RIGHTS, YEAH?
ガシ RUB
ガシ RUB
THAT'S WHAT IT SAID IN TAKERU'S MANUAL.
I...


FOUND...
TREA-SURE...!
HUH?
PLEASE, ARASHI-YAMA-SAN! GIVE ME TAKERU-KUN!
WHAAAT?!

I'LL HOLD HER BACK, SO GO!
AH!
IT'S OKAY?!
WELL... IT'S OKAY WITH ME, BUT I'D NEED TO ASK MOM FIRST...


SIS.
SIIII-IIIS.



ISN'T THERE A WAY TO MAKE IT SOUND LIKE WE WENT ON A TREASURE HUNT?
SINCE ALL WE DID WAS HAVE FUN.
MAKES SENSE—
AREN'T YOU GOOD AT THAT?

SIGN: BEE HONEYCOMB

CHAPTER 29 / END

SHIKOHONE VILLAGE GUIDEBOOK

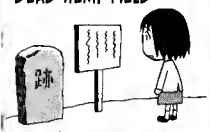
HOT SPRINGS

MONKEYS WILL JOIN YOU IN THE WATERS KNOWN FOR THEIR HEALING, BUT DUE TO THE REMOTE LOCATION, ONLY LOCAL RESIDENTS AND RABID HOT SPRING FANS EVER VISIT.

ONIGADAKE SKI SLOPES

G PREFECTURE HAS MANY SKI SLOPES, AND THERE'S ONE IN THE MOUNTAINS NEAR SHIKOHONE.
ONIGADAKE IS A CULT FAVORITE FREQUENTED BY MANY INTERMEDIATE AND EXPERT SKIERS.

DEAD HEMP FIELD



WILD HEMP USED TO GROW [illegible] WAS A FIRE AND THE HEMP WAS MOVED ELSEWHERE, ACCORDING TO LEGEND. A STONE MONUMENT AND SIGN CAN BE FOUND WHERE THE HEMP USED TO BE.

STONE: HEMP

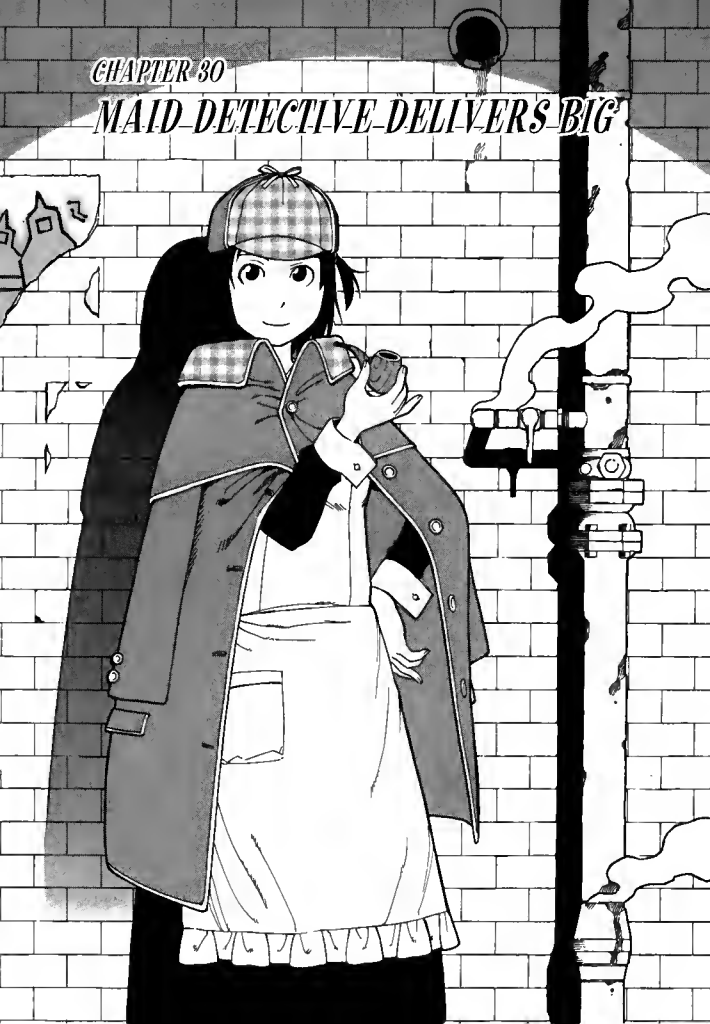
CAMPGROUND ABOUT TO BE SHUT DOWN

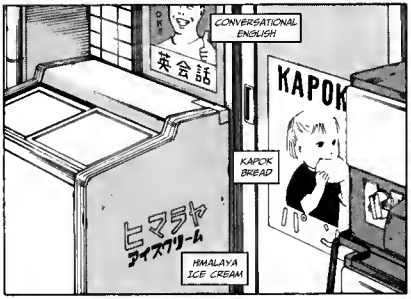
THIS CAMPGROUND IS ON THE VERGE OF BEING SHUT DOWN, DUE TO A LACK OF VISITORS. HOWEVER, THE COOKING AREA AND RESTROOMS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING. THERE ARE MANY RUMORS ABOUT GHOST SPOTTINGS IN THE AREA, AND SOME PEOPLE COME FOR THAT REASON.

LODGING

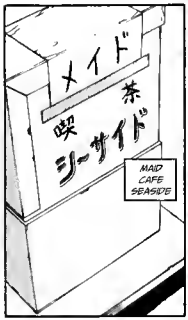
SHIKOHONE USED TO BE A STOPPING POINT FOR TRAVELERS PASSING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, AND MANY OF THOSE INNS ARE STILL AROUND. IN THE WINTER, MANY SKIERS STAY HERE. THE VILLAGE IS KNOWN FOR ITS VEGETABLES, FISH, AND KONJAC.

* G PREFECTURE IS A FICTIONAL VILLAGE.


CHAPTER 30
MAID DETECTIVE DELIVERS BIG

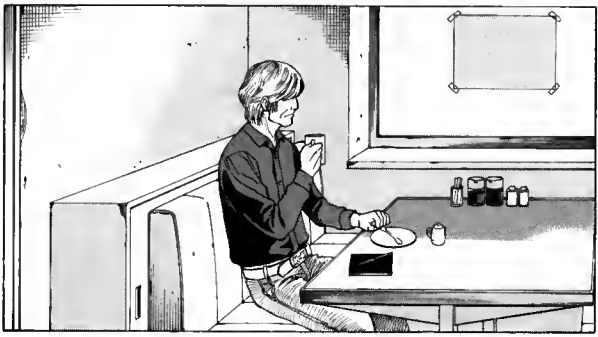

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH
英会話
KAPOK
KAPOK BREAD
ヒマラヤ
アイスクリーム
HIMALAYA ICE CREAM

丸子商店街
MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT


メイド
喫茶
シーサイド
MAID CAFE SEASIDE

COFFEE&LUNCH

HMM ...?
HEY, DON'T STARE AT THE CUSTOMER.

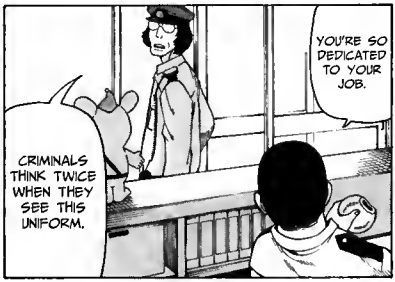


HMMM...
MMM?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD. THOUGH YOU ALWAYS ACT WEIRD.

DON'T THINK SO.
HAS THAT CUSTOMER BEEN HERE BEFORE?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HIM.
SOMEONE I SEE REGULARLY WITHOUT REALIZING IT...
HE LOOKS KIND OF FAMILIAR FOR SOME REASON...
THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE...
HAND: MYS

I'M HEADING OUT FOR A BIT.
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN.
AH!
COULD IT BE?

BUILDING: TAMAGAWA STATION



GAME OVER
AL-READY—?!
STEP?
NOTHING. I'M OFF, THEN.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO RUDE EVERY TIME?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL IN FRONT OF OUR PEACEFUL POLICE STATION?!
WHAT?!
LIKENESS OF AN ARSONIST: CHARACTERISTICS
EVERYONE WANTS TO BE A COP!! RECRUITING NOW!
THERE'S A WANTED MAN AT SEASIDE RIGHT NOW.
ON THE LOOSE!!
OH! I'VE SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE!

I GUESS HE'S NOT ON HERE.
BUT THERE'S A CUSTOMER WHO LOOKS FAMILIAR.

UM... I CAME TO MAKE SURE...
IS THAT TRUE?

THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL SOON KNOW ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL MAID DETECTIVE.
IF HE TURNS OUT TO BE A CRIMINAL, I'LL ARREST HIM!
A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CAPTURES THE CRIMINAL!!
MAID DETECTIVE DELIVERS BIG!!
CACKLE

OH. THEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S A CRIMINAL.

...FINE, I'LL GO BACK TO THE CAFE AND DO SOME MORE SNOOPING AROUND.

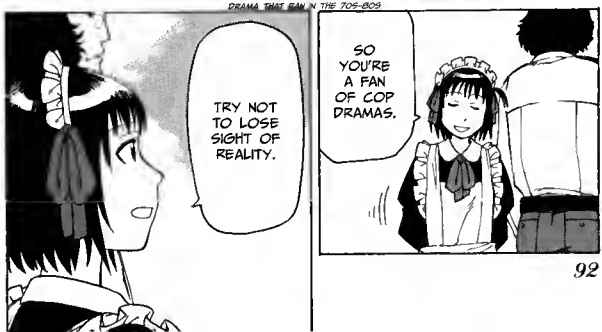
IF YOU LOSE SIGHT OF REALITY, YOU'LL GET YOURSELF HURT.
HEY.
READING THE NEWS-PAPER IN HER MIND.

HOW'S THIS SOUND? IF IT TURNS OUT THAT HE'S NOT A CRIMINAL, I'LL CALL YOU.
I WON'T LAUNCH A RAID, BUT I CAN COME CHECK ON YOU.
IF I HAVEN'T CALLED YOU AFTER THIRTY MINUTES, RAID THE CAFE!
HMM... WELL, I GUESS IT'S NOT SAFE FOR TA-TSUN AND GRANNY...
THAT'S ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES! WHEN THERE'S A CRIME OR AN ACCIDENT!!
110, RIGHT?
HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT NUMBER TO CALL?
I'LL LEAVE MY BUSINESS CARD, SO CALL MY CELL PHONE.
巡査
松田
旬作
080(4152)1732
Matsuda@-aaaa.jp
110
IF YOU CALL 110 TO SAY THAT HE WASN'T A CRIMINAL, THERE WILL BE HELL TO PAY.
ISN'T IT AN EMERGENCY IF I'M GRAPPLING WITH A CRIMINAL?!

110: EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR POLICE IN JAPAN, SIMILAR TO CALLING 911 IN US AND CANADA.

CARD: POLICEMAN / MATSUDA SHUNSAKU

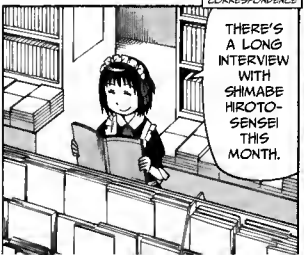
BARK AT THE SUN/TAIYOU NI HOERO!: A JAPANESE COP DRAMA THAT RAN IN THE 70S-80S.



OR YOU'LL GET YOURSELF HURT♡
PAT PAT
WELL, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO LAUNCH THE RAID IN THIRTY MINUTES!
.....HEH.
.....
.....!!
THAT WAS SO HUMILIATING! SOMEONE NEEDS TO ERASE HER MEMORY!!

HAND: MYS

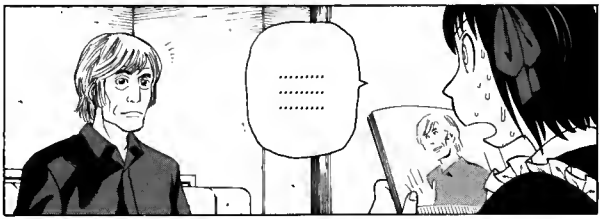
SIGN: SOBA BAR



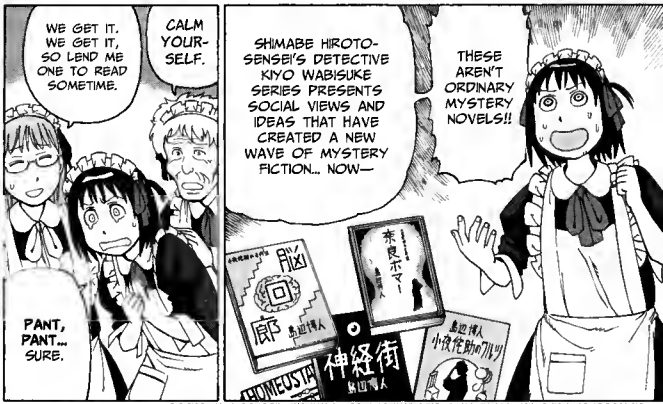
SHOUNEN KING HASN'T BEEN IN PRINT SINCE 1988, BUT WAS ONCE PUBLISHED BY SHOUNEN GAHOSHA. YOUNG KING OURS, ALSO FROM SHOUNEN GAHOSHA, RUNS SCREAMACH.

PAPER: EXCLUSIVE LONG INTERVIEW NUMBER 2: SHIMABE HIROTO

AD: BE YOURSELF. TAYOTO

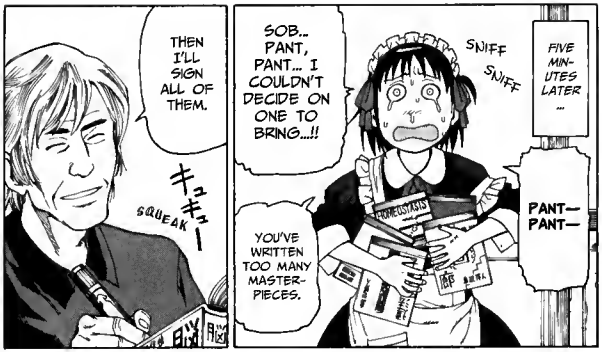


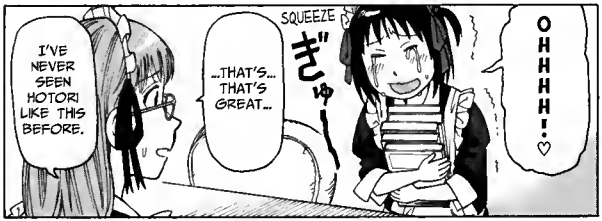
!!!!
YES. I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU RECOGNIZE ME.
I'VE BEEN A FAN OF YOUR NOVELS SINCE I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...!!
A-ACTUALLY...
NO!! I WON'T LET THIS CHANCE SLIP AWAY!!
WE'LL CLEAN UP THIS MESS RIGHT AWAY...
EXCUSE US, SIR.
IN PARTICULAR, I CONSIDER THE KIYO WABISUKE SERIES TO BE A COMPASS FOR MY LIFE...


WE GET IT. WE GET IT, SO LEND ME ONE TO READ SOMETIME.
CALM YOUR-SELF.
PANT, PANT... SURE.
SHIMABE HIROTO-SENSEI'S DETECTIVE KIYO WABISUKE SERIES PRESENTS SOCIAL VIEWS AND IDEAS THAT HAVE CREATED A NEW WAVE OF MYSTERY FICTION... NOW—
THESE AREN'T ORDINARY MYSTERY NOVELS!!
脳回廊
島辺博人
HOMEOSTA
神経街
島辺博人
小夜花Bon
島辺博人

BOOKS: NARA BOMBER, THE WALTZ OF KIYO WABISUKE, BRAIN CIRCUIT, NEUROCITY, HOMEOSTASIS

EXCUSE ME, SENSEI.
I APOLOGIZE FOR DISTURBING YOU AGAIN.
COULD YOU POSSIBLY SIGN A BOOK FOR ME?
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO ASK...
DADAAAAN!
ABSOLUTELY.
I'LL GO GRAB THE BOOK FROM MY HOUSE RIGHT AWAY!!
THREE MINUTES! ONE MINUTE!! NO, I'LL BE BACK IN TEN SECONDS!!





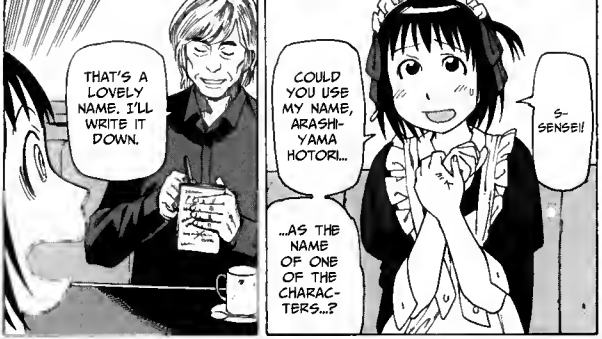
BOOKS: HOMEOSTASIS, BRAIN CIRCUIT, NEUROCITY, THE CRIMINAL WARRIOR, THE MACHINE MURDER

HELLO.
DON'T DO ANYTHING RUDE TO—
OUR CUSTO-MER!!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YE—

—T.
SLAM
SLAP
SOME-
THING
TERRIBLE
COULD
HAVE
HAPPENED.
HOW
COULD
YOU DO
SUCH A
TERRIBLE
THING, YOU
IDIOT!!

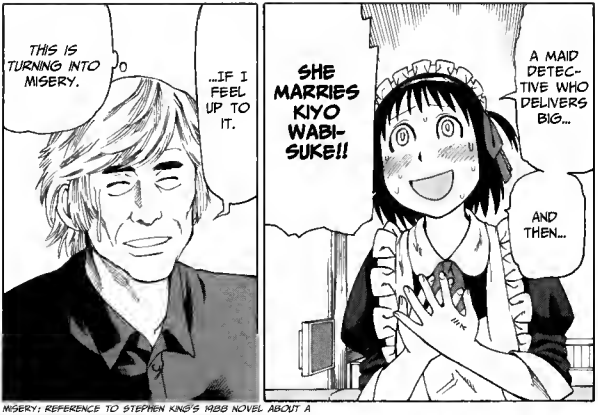
BZZT ブーーーン
BZZT ブーーーン
WHAT THE HELL...
NO SUBJECT
HE WASN'T A CRIMINAL. GO BACK TO YOUR DEN.
OW...
WHAT, INDEED... I APOLOGIZE FOR OUR MAID'S IDIOTIC BEHAVIOR.
WHAT THE HELL ?!!

I USED TO LIVE IN THIS AREA WHEN I FIRST STARTED WRITING.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
UM, I'VE HEARD THAT YOU LIVE IN LOS ANGELES.
OH, BOY! THAT SOUNDS GREAT!
I MADE THIS TRIP TO RESEARCH MY NEXT NOVEL AND TO VISIT SOME FAMILIAR PLACES.
...IT'S A POSSIBIL-ITY.
WAIT! THAT MEANS YOUR NEXT NOVEL WILL TAKE PLACE IN THIS TOWN?! RIGHT?


S-SENSE!!
COULD YOU USE MY NAME, ARASHI-YAMA HOTORI...
...AS THE NAME OF ONE OF THE CHARAC-TERS...?
THAT'S A LOVELY NAME. I'LL WRITE IT DOWN.

COULD YOU MAKE ARASHIYAMA HOTORI A GIRL IN HIGH SCHOOL?!
I'LL TAKE THAT INTO CONSID-ERATION.

AND SHE SHOULD BE A MAID DETECTIVE!!
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.



MISERY: REFERENCE TO STEPHEN KING'S 1988 NOVEL ABOUT A NOVELIST AND HIS FAN-TURNED-CRAZY-STALKER

YAMA-SAN, PLEASE ARREST THAT FOOL FOR OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!
CAN YOU STOP CALLING ME YAMA-SAN? MY NAME IS YAGURAMA, SO THAT NICKNAME REALLY DOESN'T WORK.

SIGN: TAMAGAWA STATION

YAMAMURA SEIICHI, NICKNAMED YAMA-SAN, WAS A REGULAR CHARACTER ON BARK AT THE SUN.

CHAPTER 30 / END

CHAPTER 31

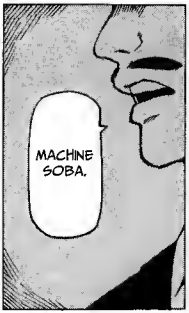
A BOWL OF MACHINE SOBA

I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER.
THAT STORY AGAIN? YOU NEVER GIVE UP.
THOSE DON'T EXIST.
THEN NEITHER DOES MACHINE SOBA EXIST!!
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF IRON UDON?
HAVE YOU EVER HAD WRENCH RAMEN?

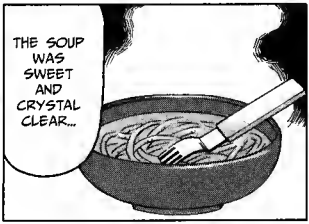
RAMEN, UDON, AND SOBA ARE TYPES OF NOODLES, OFTEN SERVED WITH A BROTHY SOUP. UDON IS FAIRLY THICK, WHILE SOBA IS DARKER AND MADE OF BUCKWHEAT.

DON'T BOTHER, HOTORI-CHAN. IT'S A DREAM HE HAD A LONG TIME AGO.
I'VE BEEN STANDING HERE FOR A WHILE.
WHOA! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
GRIN
GRIN
WHAT? WHAT'S MACHINE SOBA?

AND THEN HE SHARED SOME WITH ME.
THAT'S WHAT MY OLD MAN SAID IT WAS.


MACHINE SOBA.

IT WAS SO GOOD.
SO...


THE SOUP WAS SWEET AND CRYSTAL CLEAR...

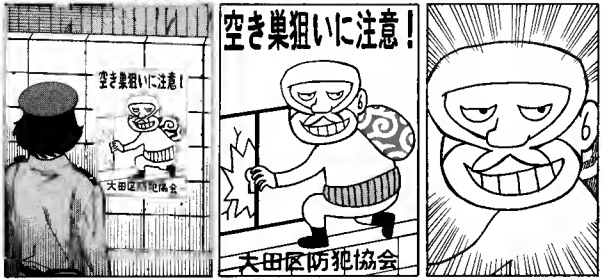
WHAT DOES SOBA HAVE TO DO WITH SOCCER?
NISHIN AS IN THE HERRING!
KNEE SHIN...? IS THAT A SOCCER MOVE?

LATELY, I'VE BEEN WONDERING IF IT WAS ACTUALLY NISHIN SOBA.

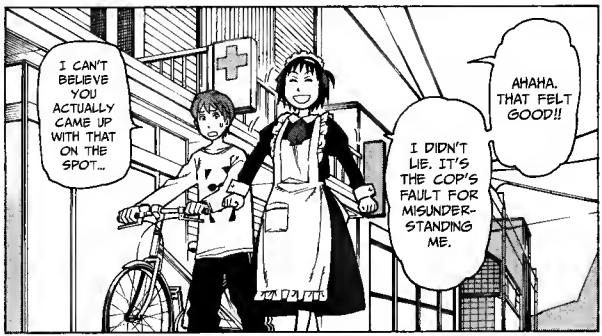
DROOL ゴクリ
SOUNDS YUMMY...
LET'S LOOK FOR THE RESTAURANT WHERE YOU HAD THE SOBA.
I'M DYING FOR A BOWL OF THAT SOBA WITH SOME GREEN ONIONS AND CHILI POWDER.
I'LL COME ALONG. I WANT TO TRY THE SOBA, AND I'M GOOD AT FINDING STUFF.
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO FIND TREASURE?
YEAH, THAT WAS MY PLAN FOR TODAY.
I CAN'T COUNT ON MY OLD MAN TO REMEMBER.
IF HIDDEN TREASURE WAS SO EASY TO FIND, ITOI SHIGESATO WOULD HAVE HAD A MUCH EASIER TIME.
WHO'S THAT? A FEUDAL GENERAL?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS?!
SIGN: NAITOU DENTAL CLINIC

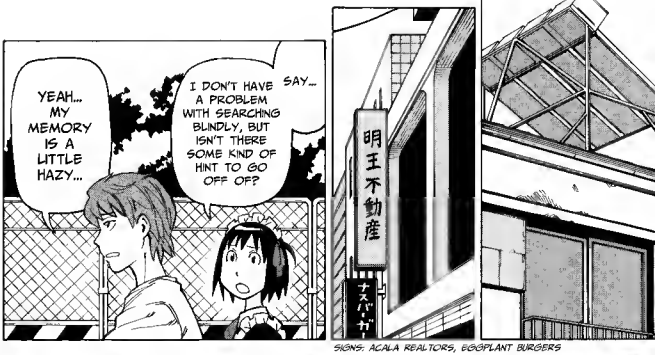
LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE ANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A SOBA RESTAURANT.
WHOOSH
ニャー
IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE CLOSE?
I REMEMBER WALKING HOME WITH MY OLD MAN AFTER WE FINISHED.
I WAS ONLY THREE OR FOUR AT THE TIME.
ピピピピーッ
TWEEEET!
SO IT SHOULD BE NEARBY.
I SEE.

YIKES, THIS SUCKS.
STOP RIGHT THERE!!
!!
TWO PEOPLE RIDING ON ONE BIKE!!
A THIEF!
SORR-RRY.
WHERE? WHERE?!
WHAT ?!!

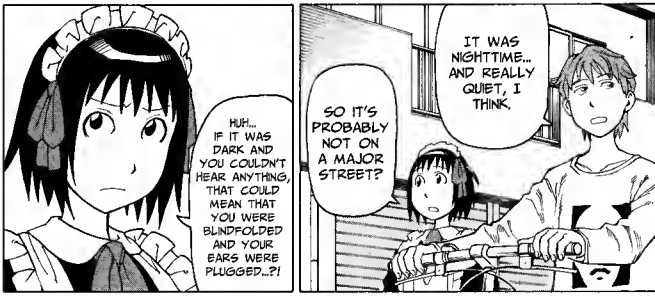


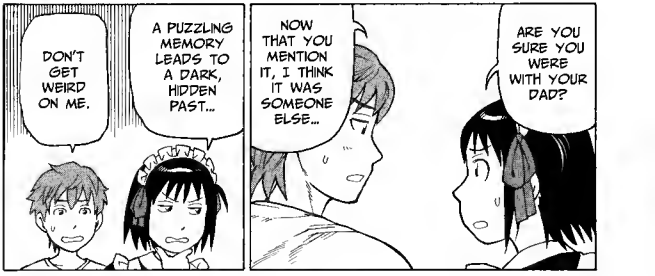
SIGN: BEWARE OF BURGLARS! ODA DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY CAME UP WITH THAT ON THE SPOT...
I DIDN'T LIE. IT'S THE COP'S FAULT FOR MISUNDERSTANDING ME.
AHAHA. THAT FELT GOOD!!

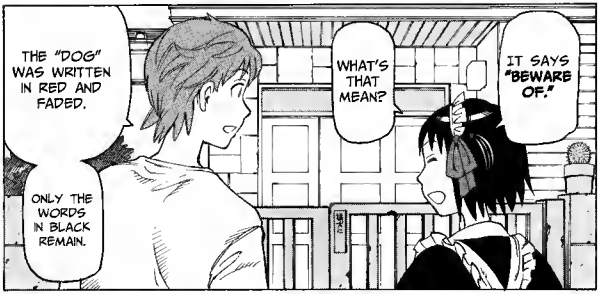

YEAH... MY MEMORY IS A LITTLE HAZY...
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SEARCHING BLINDLY, BUT ISN'T THERE SOME KIND OF HINT TO GO OFF OF?
SAY...
明王不動産
ナスバーガー

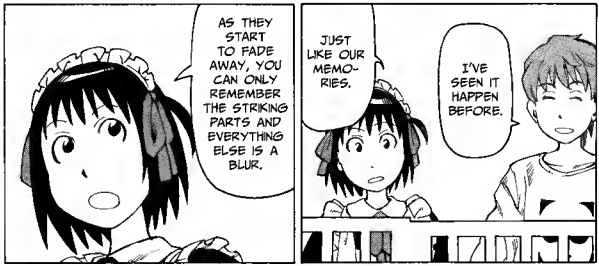
SIGNS: ACALA REALTORS, EGGPLANT BURGERS


HUH... IF IT WAS DARK AND YOU COULDN'T HEAR ANYTHING, THAT COULD MEAN THAT YOU WERE BLINDFOLDED AND YOUR EARS WERE PLUGGED...?!
SO IT'S PROBABLY NOT ON A MAJOR STREET?
IT WAS NIGHTTIME... AND REALLY QUIET, I THINK.


DON'T GET WEIRD ON ME.
A PUZZLING MEMORY LEADS TO A DARK, HIDDEN PAST...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I THINK IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE...
ARE YOU SURE YOU WERE WITH YOUR DAD?

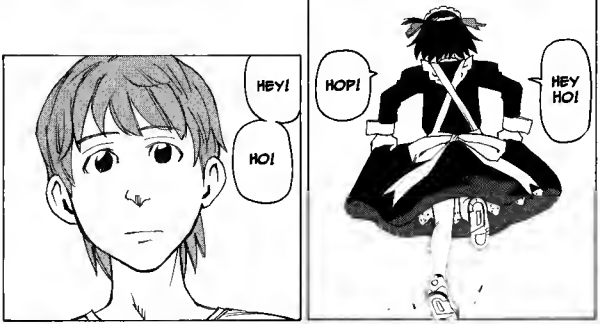
SIGN: BEWARE OF



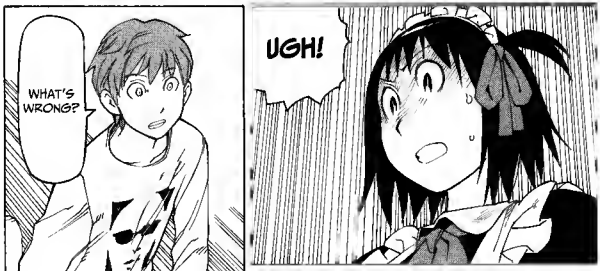

AS THEY START TO FADE AWAY, YOU CAN ONLY REMEMBER THE STRIKING PARTS AND EVERYTHING ELSE IS A BLUR.
JUST LIKE OUR MEMO-RIES.
I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE.

OKAY, QUIZ TIME! WHAT COMES AFTER "BEWARE OF"?
HUH?!
UM, BEWARE OF...
BEWARE OF "DOLL"!!
HA HA HA. YOU GET TEN POINTS FOR THAT ONE!
WHOA—!
ワワワン
BARK BARK BARK
WHAT NOW?
SANADA, THIS IS TER-RIBLE!
OH?
WHOA, THAT SCARED ME.
BARK
ワンワン
BARK
BARK
BARK
ワワワン

IT'S AN ORIGINAL HOPSCOTCH STAGE!!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I GUESS KIDS STILL DRAW ON THE SIDEWALK.
AS A (SELF-PROCLAIMED) FORMER JUNIOR HOPSCOTCH CHAMPION, I CAN'T IGNORE THIS CHALLENGE!
YOU FIND A LOT OF WEIRD STUFF.
JUST THE WAY A DETECTIVE SHOULD... HOP!
HOP!
HOP!


HEY!
HO!
HOP!
HEY HO!

IF I MARRY HER, I'LL HAVE FUN EVERY DAY.
Do

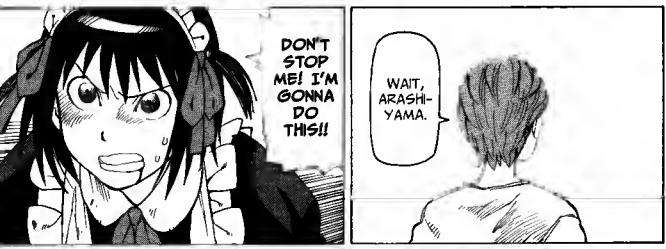

UGH!
WHAT'S WRONG?

THIS IS...!! A TRAP!! IMPOSSIBLE TO PASS...!!
I ONLY HAVE TWO LEGS, BUT THERE ARE THREE CIRCLES!!
NOT ENOUGH LEGS...! MORE LEGS!!
BRILLIANT!
CLUNK
コン

SIGN: WATCH OUT FOR CHILDREN!

SIGN: NO SOLICITING

THAT'S SO MEAN...
I'M SUPPOSED TO JUMP?
ON ONE LEG...
HOP THIS SCOTCH?!
MENTAL IMAGE OF THE HEROES WHO HAVE PERISHED


WAIT, ARASHI-YAMA.
DON'T STOP ME! I'M GONNA DO THIS!!

I CAN'T LET MYSELF BE DEFEATED BY THE WICKED BRAT WHO DREW THIS! HERE I GOOOOO!
HEY, I FOUND THE SOBA RESTAU-RANT.
HUH?

SIGN: CLOSED / KURUMIAN

WHAT...
THAT'S WHERE MOM'S FUNERAL WAS HELD.

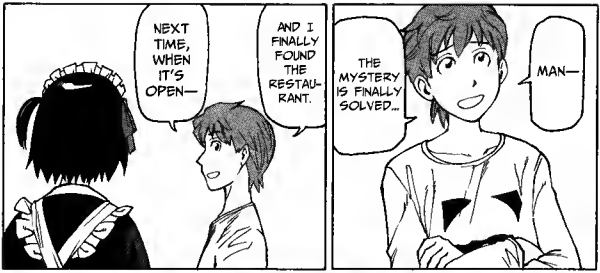
...WHEN WE STOPPED FOR SOBA.
I WAS PROBABLY NODDING OFF ON THE WAY HOME...
AFTER THE FUNERAL...

MY OLD MAN SEEMED LIKE A STRANGER ...
BECAUSE HE WAS DRESSED FORMALLY

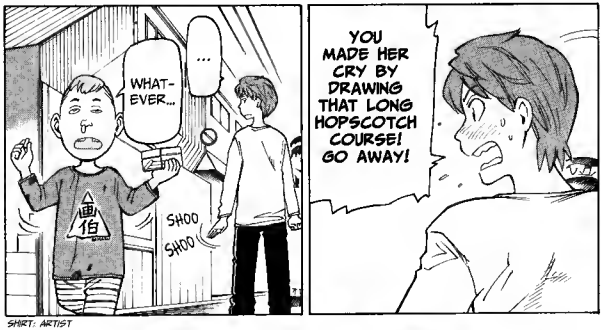
IT FELT QUIET...

BECAUSE MY OLD MAN WASN'T SHOOTING HIS MOUTH OFF FOR ONCE.

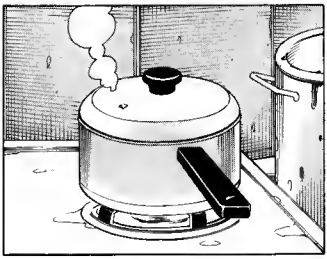
HE DIDN'T SAY A SINGLE WORD.

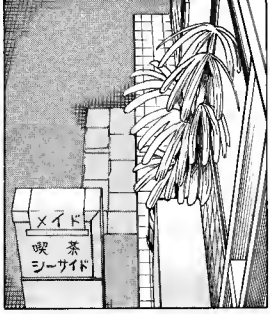


SIGN: MARUKO THIRD DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

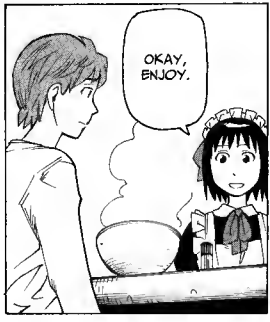


SHIRT: ARTIST

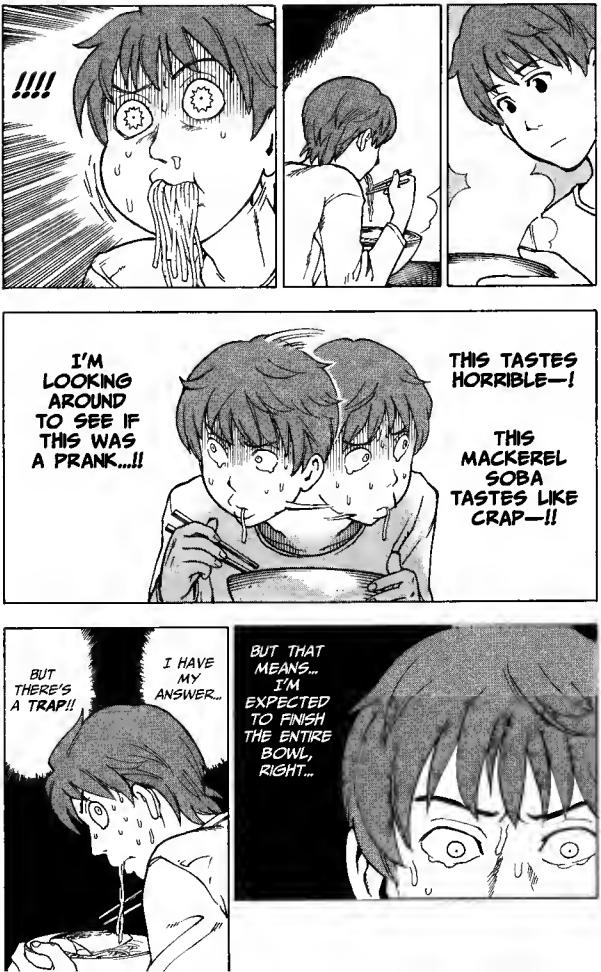




BAG: OGATA MART



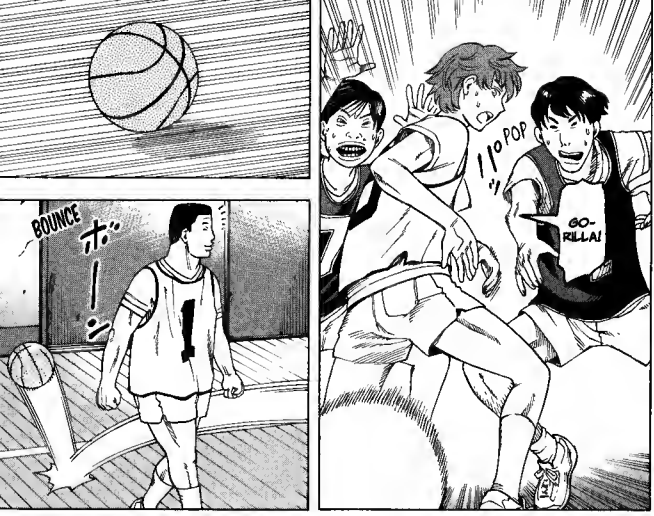
I'M SURE THAT YOUR DAD REMEMBERS THE MACHINE SOBA.
HE HASN'T FORGOT-TEN.
PROB-ABLY.
YEAH.
PROB-ABLY.
YEAH.
TOILET


!!!!
I'M LOOKING AROUND TO SEE IF THIS WAS A PRANK...!!
THIS TASTES HORRIBLE—!
THIS MACKEREL SOBA TASTES LIKE CRAP—!!
BUT THERE'S A TRAP!!
I HAVE MY ANSWER..
BUT THAT MEANS... I'M EXPECTED TO FINISH THE ENTIRE BOWL, RIGHT...

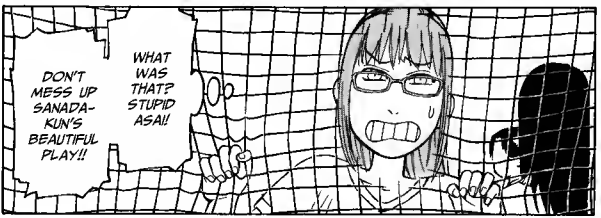
CHAPTER 31 / END

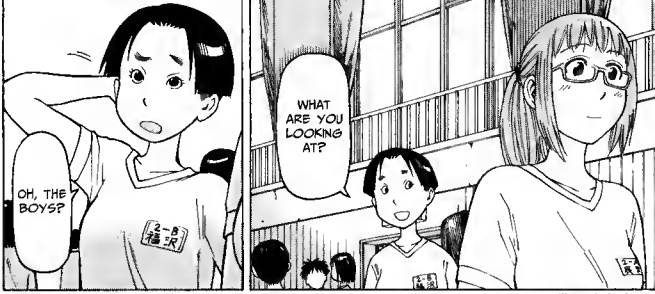
CHAPTER 32
BATTLE! FAIRY VS. REAPER

SANA-DA!
6
BOUNCE
タン
ダン
BOUNCE
YEAH!
SLAM
9
14
BLUSH
ポッ


POP
GO-RILLA!
BOUNCE
ボーン

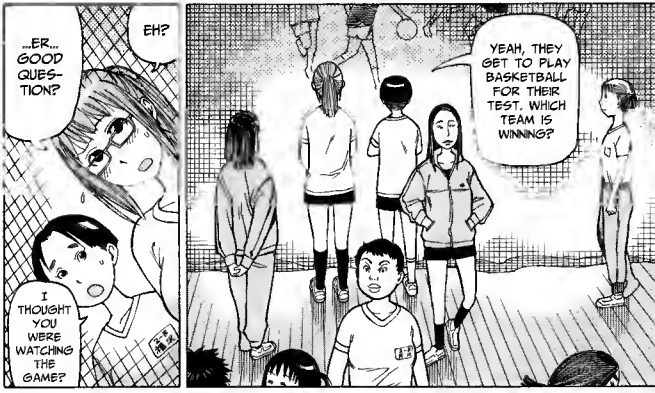
MY BAD.
YOU MEANT ME? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RECOGNIZE A NICKNAME I'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE?
ピッ
TWEET!

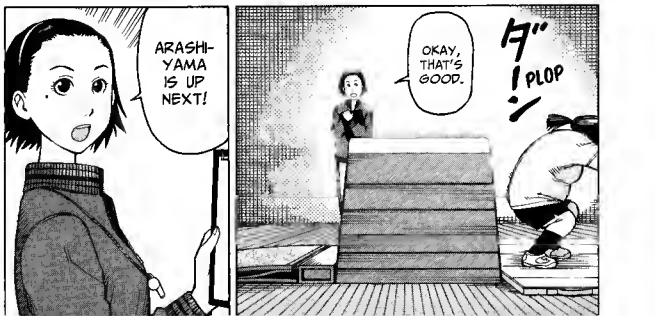

WHAT WAS THAT? STUPID ASA!
DON'T MESS UP SANADA-KUN'S BEAUTIFUL PLAY!!

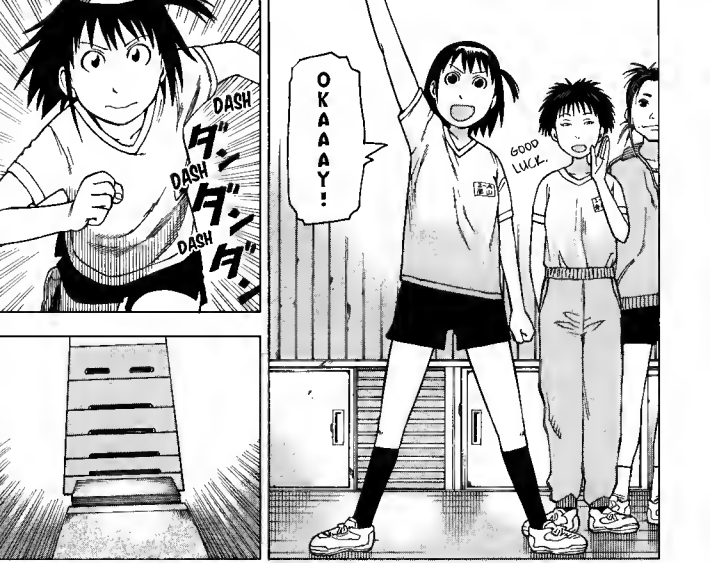


SHIRT: FUKUSAWA

SHIRT: TATSUNO


...ER... GOOD QUES-TION?
EH?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WATCHING THE GAME?
YEAH, THEY GET TO PLAY BASKETBALL FOR THEIR TEST. WHICH TEAM IS WINNING?





SHIRT: ARASHIYAMA

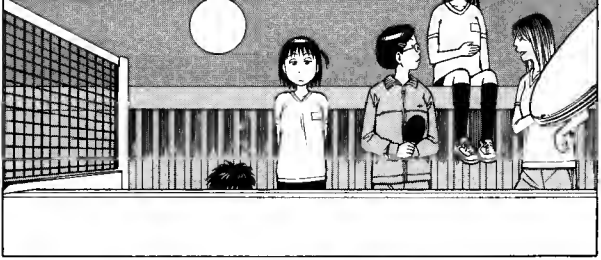
ARASHIYAMA... LOOK BEHIND YOU.
?

WHOA! TEACHER!!
IT'S DANGEROUS TO STAND SO CLOSE TO THE LANDING AREA.

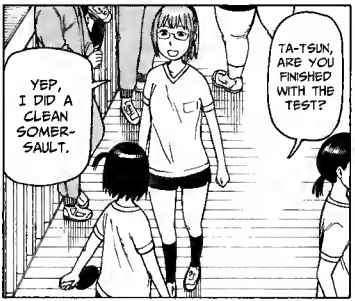
CORRECT LANDING AREA.
YOUR LEFT ARM WASN'T STRAIGHT, SO YOU VEERED OFF!
HUH?

I WAS THINKING THAT THERE WAS A DIMEN-SIONAL RIFT HERE...

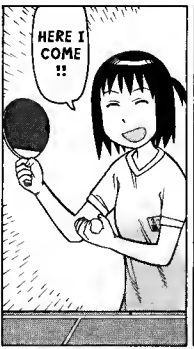
OKAY, YOU CAN GO PLAY PING PONG... ER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

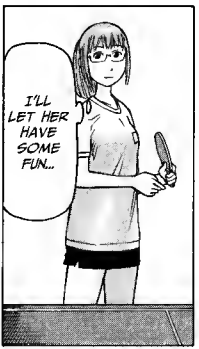


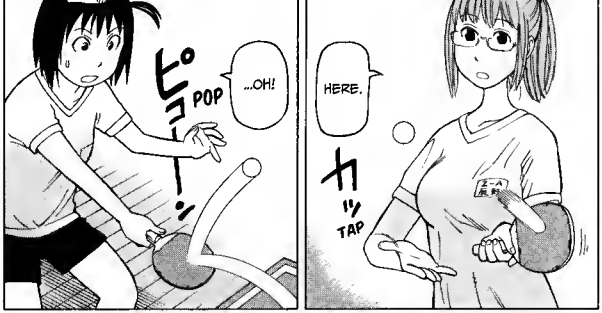
FLAP
FLAP
LET'S PLAY PING PONG.
WITH YOU? OKAY, I GUESS.


YEP, I DID A CLEAN SOMER-SAULT.
TA-TSUN, ARE YOU FINISHED WITH THE TEST?

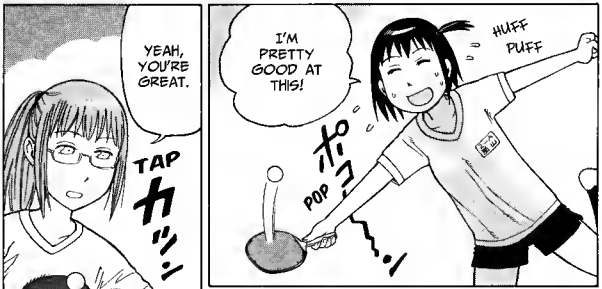
MISS
スカ
HUH?

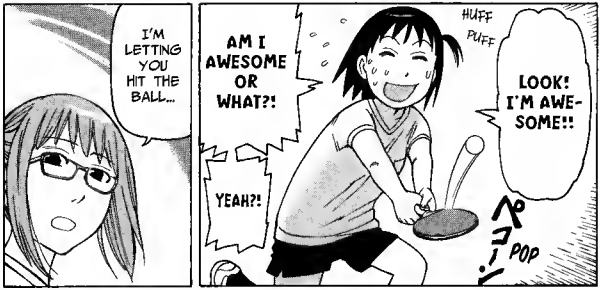

HERE I COME !!


I'LL LET HER HAVE SOME FUN..

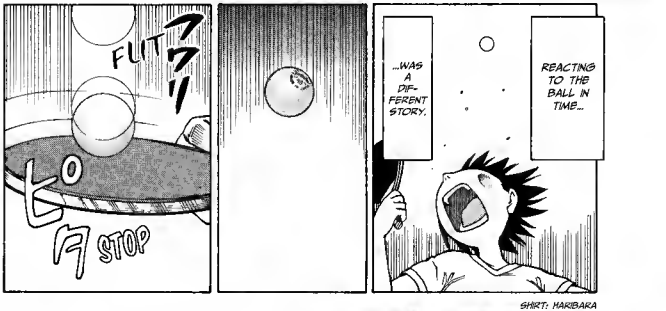

POP
...OH!
HERE.
TAP

TAP
YAWN


I'M PRETTY GOOD AT THIS!
HUFF PUFF
POP
YEAH, YOU'RE GREAT.
TAP



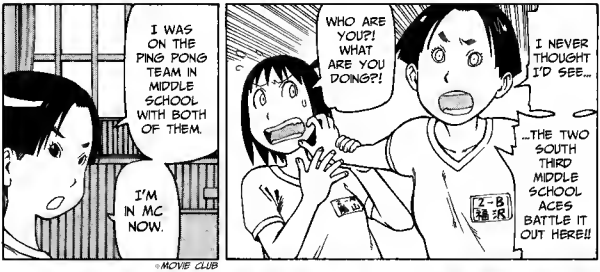
IT TURNS OUT THAT HOTORI'S SHARP EYES WERE ACTUALLY ABLE TO TRACK THE STREAKING BALL!!



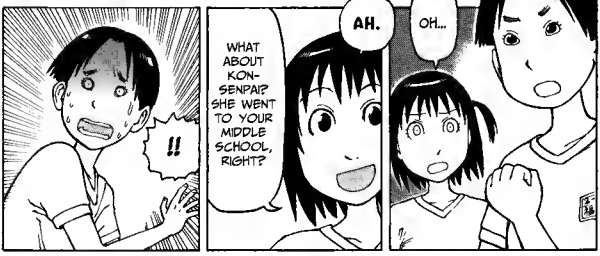
SHIRT: HARIBARA

THAT DRIVE...
I SEE YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR EDGE, TATSUNO-SAN.
OKAY, THERE, THERE.
THAT WAS MEAN! PAINFUL! ROUND!
"ROUND" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYTHING.

HOW ABOUT A MATCH, FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE?
2-A
HARI-BARA...
...-SAN.
YOU WERE PROBABLY FALLING ASLEEP PLAYING ARASHIYAMA-SAN.
SNATCH
ぱしっ
GUH?!
I'M USING THIS TAB—
HEY!!
グイー
SQUEEZE

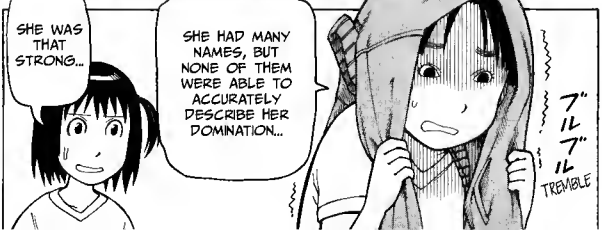

I WAS ON THE PING PONG TEAM IN MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH BOTH OF THEM.
I'M IN MC NOW.
WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE...
...THE TWO SOUTH THIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL ACES BATTLE IT OUT HERE!!
©MOVIE CLUB

THOSE TWO...
WERE KNOWN AS THE FAIRY OF SOUTH THIRD MIDDLE AND THE REAPER OF SOUTH THIRD MIDDLE!
南三中
南三中
SHIRTS: S3M


!!
WHAT ABOUT KON-SENPAI? SHE WENT TO YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
AH.
OH...

WHAT VILLAG-ERS?!
KON FUTABA... WHENEVER HER NAME WAS MENTIONED, THE VILLAGERS SHOOK IN FEAR..

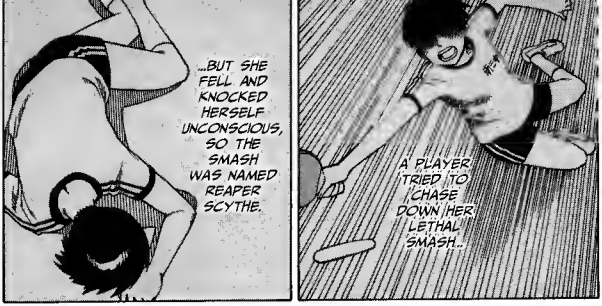
OR DARTH VADER ...GIANT WARRIOR
SHE WAS ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL... THE DEVIL OF SOUTH THIRD MIDDLE... OR A GREAT OLD ONE...


SHE WAS THAT STRONG...
SHE HAD MANY NAMES, BUT NONE OF THEM WERE ABLE TO ACCURATELY DESCRIBE HER DOMINATION...
ブルブル TREMBLE

SLAM
パカ
BAM
カカ
BAM
カ
BAM
TATSUNO-SAN IS SERVING!
BAM
カカ
BAM
カ
BAM
WOW!
THIS IS LIKE THE PING PONG YOU SEE ON TV!

YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT SHE HASN'T PLAYED IN A YEAR
TATSUNO-SAN'S INSTINCTS ARE INCREDIBLE!
SHE'S STRONG!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THE ONE WEAK SPOT IN HER PLAY, HER FOOT-WORK, HAS BEEN FIXED!!
I CAN'T SLOW HER DOWN!
MIND IF I START PLAYING FOR REAL?
I'M STARTING TO REGAIN MY OLD TOUCH!
I'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR REAL THIS WHOLE TIME!!

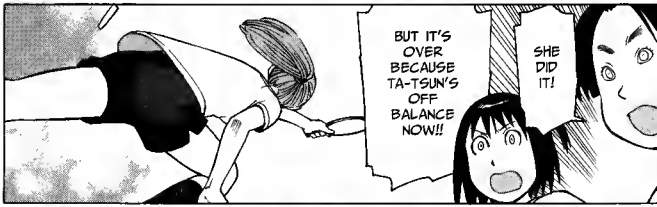
USE WHAT?!
THAT POSE! IS SHE GOING TO USE IT?!
スウ
SLIP
ガ
WHACK
LONG AGO!!
FAMOUS REAPER SCYTHE ?!
HERE IT COMES! HARIBARA'S FAMOUS REAPER SCYTHE!


A PLAYER TRIED TO CHASE DOWN HER LETHAL SMASH...
...BUT SHE FELL AND KNOCKED HERSELF UNCONSCIOUS, SO THE SMASH WAS NAMED REAPER SCYTHE.

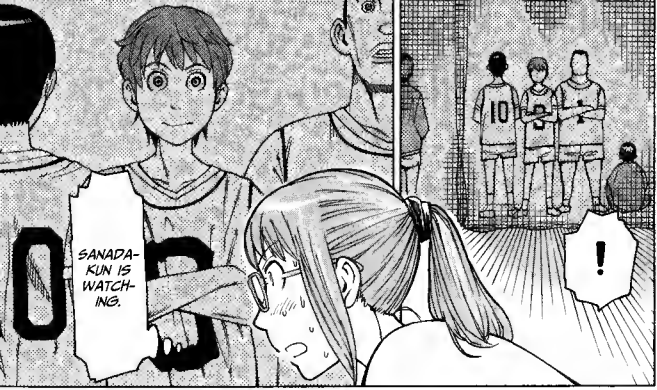
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THAT NAME?!!
TWITCH
TWITCH
BY ME!!

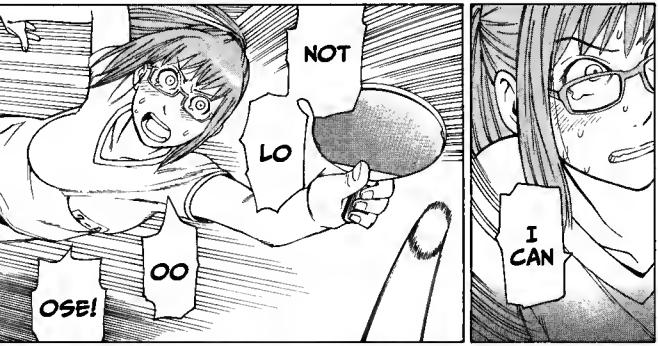
COME, TAKE THIS.

SMASH
スガッ
パアッ!!
WHACK
カッ


SHE DID IT!
BUT IT'S OVER BECAUSE TA-TSUN'S OFF BALANCE NOW!!

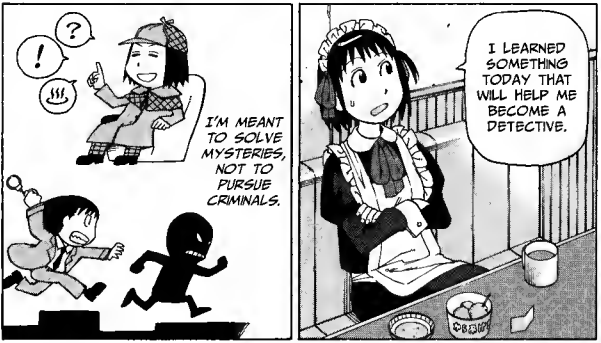
AHA! GOT YA!
I'M GOING TO DEFEAT TATSUNO TOSHIKO!!
I'M GOING TO LOSE—


SANADA-KUN IS WATCH-ING.
!


NOT
LO
OO
OSE!
I CAN

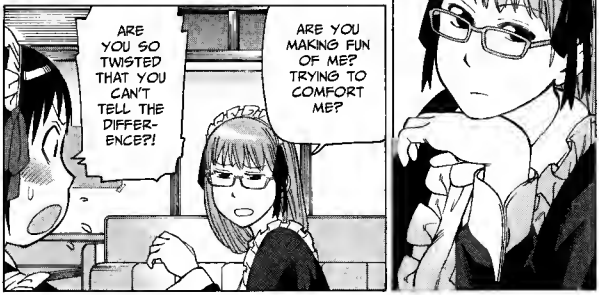
ピヒョー!
TWEET
OKAY. CLEAN UP.
ぱーん
CLAP
ぱーん
CLAP

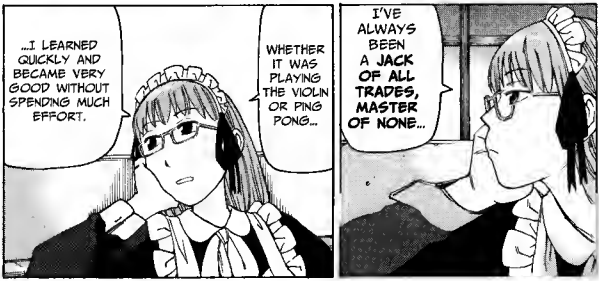
I LOST. I CAN'T BEAT SOMEONE WHO'S STILL PLAYING COMPETITIVELY.
SO HOW DID YOUR MATCH GO?
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW SCORING WORKS.
UGH... MY WHOLE BODY IS ACHING...
メイド
喫茶
シーサイド



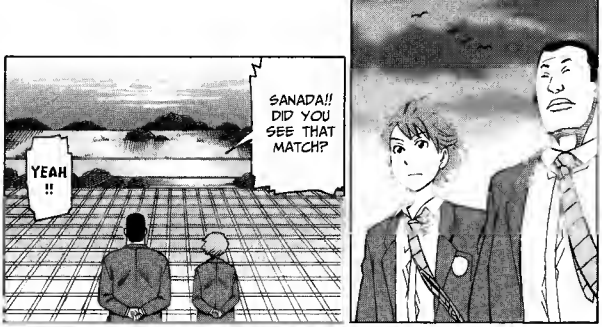
BOWL: FRIED CHICKEN

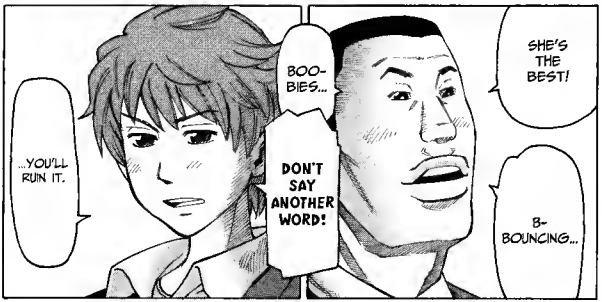
SIMILARLY, YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY PING PONG TO BECOME SANADA'S BRIDE, RIGHT?
SO I DON'T NEED TO LEARN HOW TO VAULT BOXES...!
もぐもぐもぐ
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP


ARE YOU SO TWISTED THAT YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFER-ENCE?!
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME? TRYING TO COMFORT ME?


...I LEARNED QUICKLY AND BECAME VERY GOOD WITHOUT SPENDING MUCH EFFORT.
WHETHER IT WAS PLAYING THE VIOLIN OR PING PONG...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF NONE...

I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE CONFIDENT OR SCARED.
I CAN NEVER BE THE BEST AT ANYTHING... GO AHEAD AND LAUGH AT ME.
BUT AT SOME POINT, I HIT A CEILING, AND THEN THE TRUE PRODIGIES AND HARD WORKERS LEFT ME BEHIND...





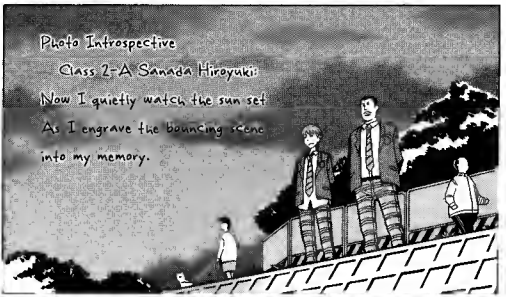


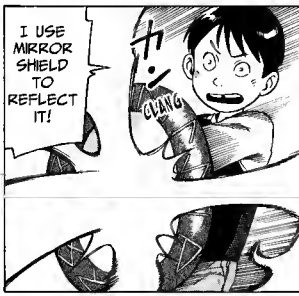
Photo Introspective
Class 2-A Sanada Hiroyuki:
Now I quietly watch the sun set
As I engrave the bouncing scene
into my memory.

CHAPTER 32 / END

CHAPTER 33
VERY WEAK CARD

GO!
FIRE DHARMA BREATH!!
ROAR

SCORCH!
SCORCH!
SCORCH!
GAH— THAT'S 4 DAMAGE!

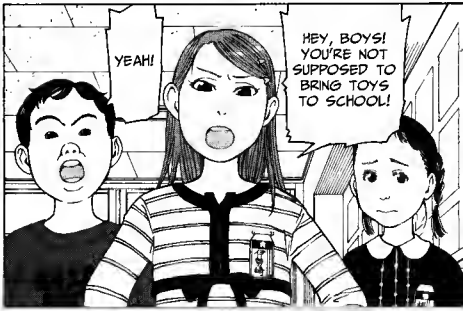

I USE MIRROR SHIELD TO REFLECT IT!
CLANG

D-DARN IT! FAIRY WARRIOR'S DONE FOR!
SCREEEECH!
WHEN ZOMBIE DETECTIVE DIES, ALL MONSTERS AT AN EQUAL OR LOWER LEVEL ALSO DIE.

ZOMBIE DETECTIVE DIES! HOW-EVER—
IT BURNS

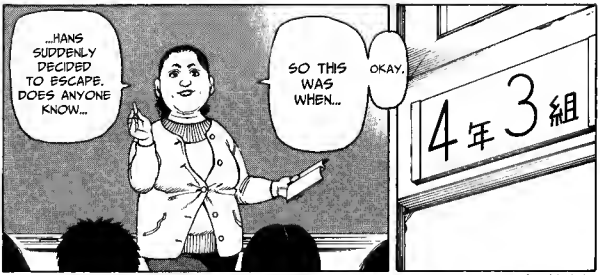
TURTLE KNIGHT DEFENDS ME!!
NEXT, I ATTACK MAKKI DIRECTLY!
WHOOSH
IT CAN IGNORE A DEFENDING MONSTER!
THAT WON'T HELP! MY WEAPON IS A SPEAR.
WHACK
ACK! I RAN OUT OF LIFE POINTS AND DIED!!

TAKERU, HOW COME YOU'RE SO GOOD WHEN YOUR CARDS ALL SUCK?
TAKE-RU'S GOOD.
THINK YOU CAN BEAT YAMAMOTO FROM CLASS 4?
REALLY GOOD!
WE CAN CHALLENGE HIM DURING LUNCH.



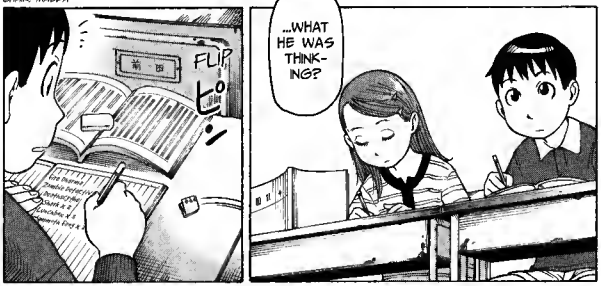
HER NAME IS ERI, WHICH SOUNDS LIKE EBI, WHICH MEANS LOBSTER.

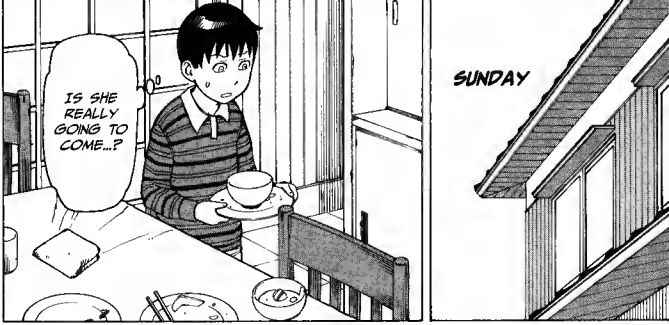
PIN: ISESAKI

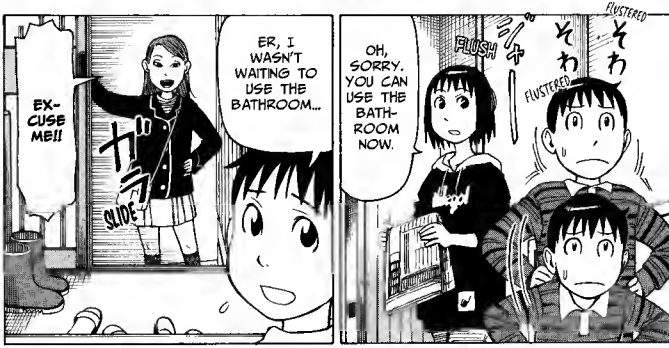


CHAIR: MAEDA

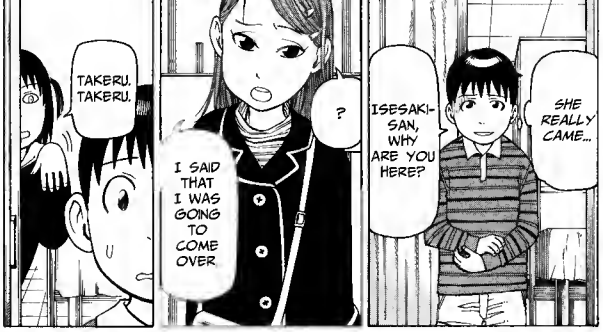
SIGN: CLASS 4-3

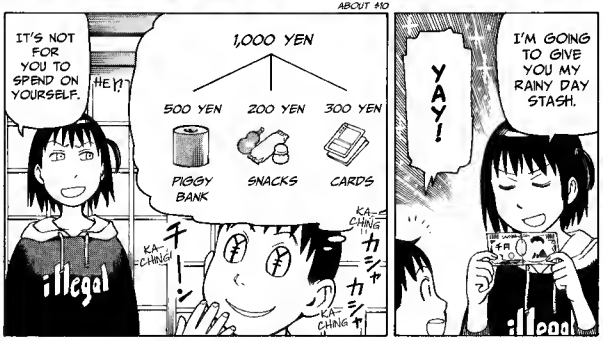


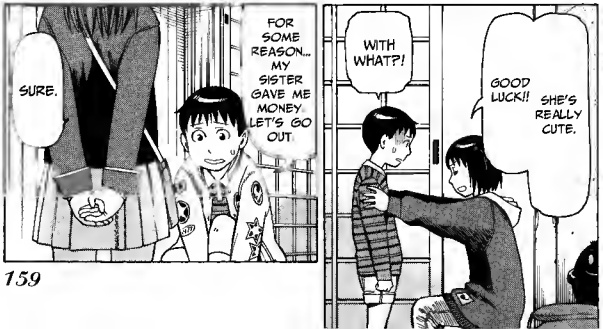

IS SHE REALLY GOING TO COME...?
SUNDAY

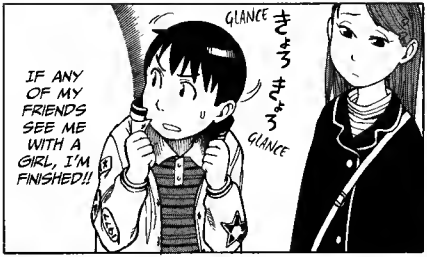

EX-CUSE ME!!
SLIDE
ER, I WASN'T WAITING TO USE THE BATHROOM...
OH, SORRY. YOU CAN USE THE BATH-ROOM NOW.
FLUSH
FLUSTERED
FLUSTERED

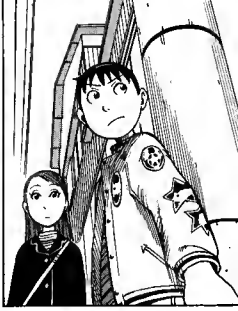
I WASN'T WAITING FOR HER! AND SHE'S NOT MY FRIEND!!
YOU WERE WAITING FOR YOUR FRIEND?
OH, WHAT'S THIS? HELLO.
HELLO!!


TAKERU, TAKERU.
I SAID THAT I WAS GOING TO COME OVER.
?
ISESAKI-SAN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
SHE REALLY CAME...


ABOUT ¥10
IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO SPEND ON YOURSELF.
HE!?
1,000 YEN
500 YEN
200 YEN
300 YEN
PIGGY BANK
SNACKS
CARDS
KA-CHING!
チーン
KA-CHING
カシャ
KA-CHING
YAY!
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MY RAINY DAY STASH.
illegal

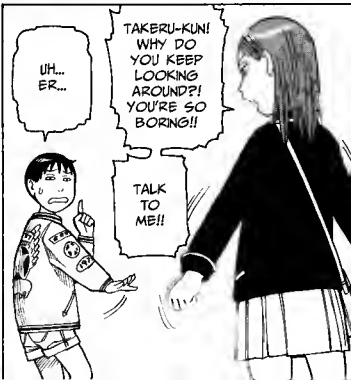

SURE.
FOR SOME REASON... MY SISTER GAVE ME MONEY. LET'S GO OUT.
WITH WHAT?!
GOOD LUCK!!
SHE'S REALLY CUTE.


IF ANY OF MY FRIENDS SEE ME WITH A GIRL, I'M FINISHED!!
GLANCE
きょろ
きょろ
GLANCE

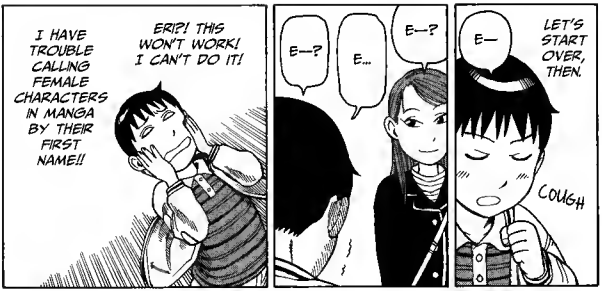


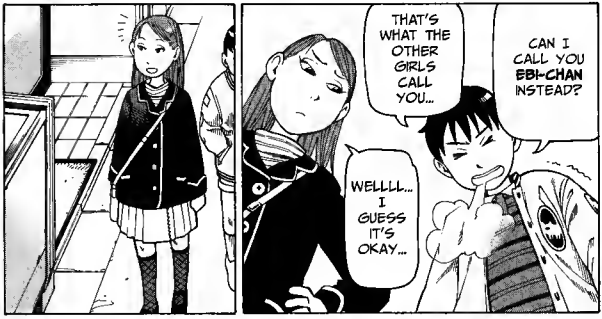
IMAGINARY TRIAL
I PLEAD... GUILTY...
NOT JUST ANY GIRL! HE WAS WITH ISESAKI!!
TAKERU WAS WITH A GIRL ON SUNDAY..

HUH? CAN'T I CALL YOU WHATEVER I WANT?
WAIT! WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME BY MY FIRST NAME?
YOU USUALLY CALL ME ARASHIYAMA-KUN.


UH... ER...
TAKERU-KUN! WHY DO YOU KEEP LOOKING AROUND?! YOU'RE SO BORING!!
TALK TO ME!!

WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME?
...THAT'S RIGHT. ISE-SAKI-SAN...
EH?!
TAKERU-KUN, YOU SHOULD CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME.
ERI!
HUH?
ERI.
SORRY, IT JUST SLIPPED MY MIND. GIVE ME A SECOND TO REMEMBER! ...HINT, PLEASE!
HUH?!


I HAVE TROUBLE CALLING FEMALE CHARACTERS IN MANGA BY THEIR FIRST NAME!!
ERIP! THIS WON'T WORK! I CAN'T DO IT!
E—?
E...
E—?
E—
LET'S START OVER, THEN.
COUGH


CAN I CALL YOU EBI-CHAN INSTEAD?
THAT'S WHAT THE OTHER GIRLS CALL YOU...
WELLLL... I GUESS IT'S OKAY...

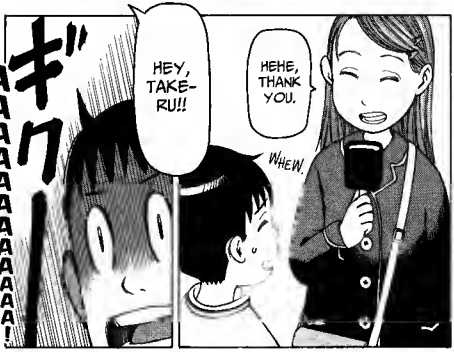
SAY, WANNA GET ICE CREAM?
HUH...? IT'S COLD I'LL PASS, PLEASE...
I WANT SOME!
BUY ME ICE CREAM! AND DON'T SAY "PLEASE"!! MAN UP!
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND!!

THERE ISN'T ANY.
WHAT FLAVORS ARE THERE?

WHAT FLAVOR DO YOU WANT?
VA-NILLA.

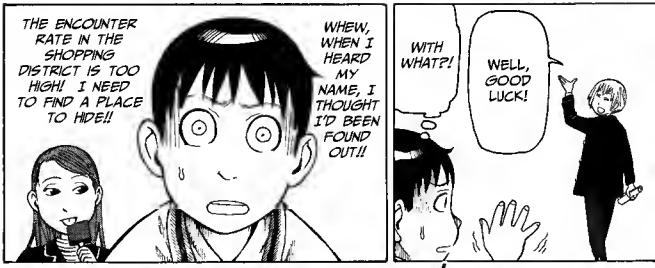
...SORRY, THERE ISN'T ANY.
AND I'M ABOUT TO FREEZE TO DEATH.
YOU PICK, THEN.

EVERY-THING BESIDES VANILLA.
THEN GET ME STRAW-BERRY.


ギクAAAAAAAAAAA!
HEY, TAKE-RU!!
HEHE, THANK YOU.
WHEW!

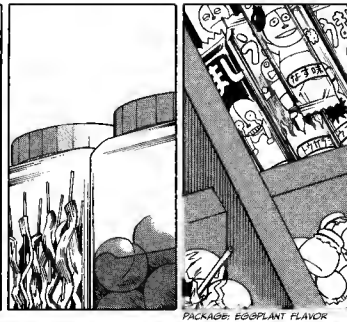
CHOCOLATE MELON CHOCOLATE, THEN MELON, THEN MORE CHOCOLATE!
チョコメロン
MORE

WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE ON A DATE?
HEY, HEY. WAY TO GO.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.
NUDGE
NUDGE


WELL, GOOD LUCK!
WITH WHAT?!
WHEW, WHEN I HEARD MY NAME, I THOUGHT I'D BEEN FOUND OUT!!
THE ENCOUNTER RATE IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT IS TOO HIGH! I NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE!!

ISE-SAKI-SAN—
POW
ドスッ
UGH!
...EBI-CHAN..
PLEASE ...

OOH, WHAT STORE? LET'S GO!
COUGH
HOW... ABOUT... WE DROP BY A STORE I VISIT ALL THE TIME?
WHAM!
ドムス
すずや
SIGN: SUZUYA
IS SHE GONNA PUNCH ME EVERY TIME I USE A WORD SHE DOESN'T LIKE?! THIS A VIOLATION OF FREE SPEECH!!
THIS MUST BE HOW IT FEELS TO BE FALSELY ACCUSED OF A CRIME.
ペコ BOW
OH... ARE YOU ON A DATE, TAKERU-KUN?

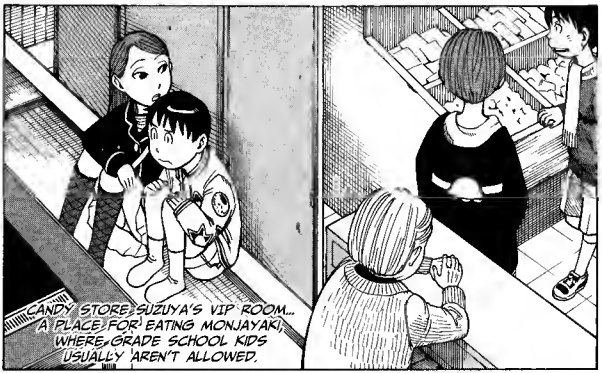


PACKAGE: EGGPLANT FLAVOR

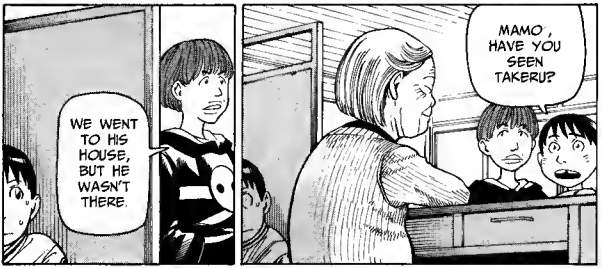
PACKAGE: 6 CARD PACK / DEMON COLOSSEUM / 4TH EDITION / DEMON TEARS

ABOUT ¥1.50

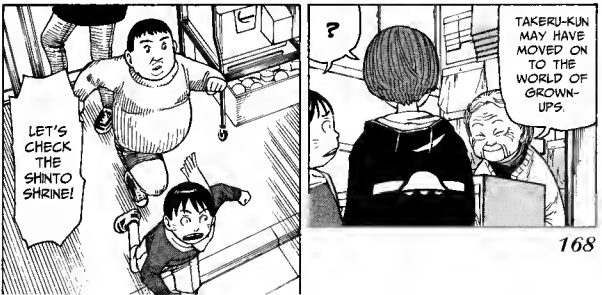
MAN, THAT SUCKS! ANOTHER ONE OF THESE!
THAT WAS ALL THE MONEY I HAD.
WANNA BUY CARDS?
I'LL BUY A PACK.
PLOP
コロ
ガチャ
CLICK
IT'S THEM!
NOWHERE TO RUN, NO EXCUSES THAT WILL WORK... MY GRADE SCHOOL LIFE IS OVER.
THIS IS HIDEOUS! I THOUGHT THEY'D ALREADY USED UP THEIR ALLOWANCES THIS MONTH!!
CAN I?!
HIDE IN THE VIP ROOM.



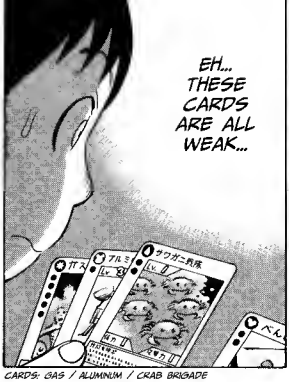
MONJAYAKI: SIMILAR TO OKONOMIYAKI, A BATTER WITH FINELY CHOPPED VEGETABLES THAT IS FRIED LIKE A PANCAKE.



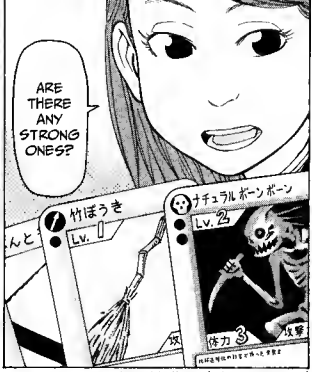
*NICKNAME FOR THE CANDY STORE OWNER.



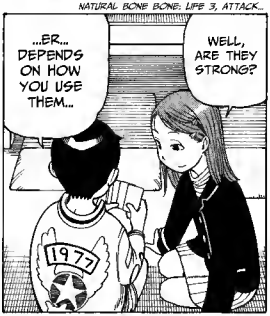
TAKERU-KUN.
WHEW, THAT CLOSE CALL WAS STRAIGHT OUT OF A MOVIE... I GUESS THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP.
.....
.....
OPEN IT!
...OKAY.
HUH?!
DEMON COLOSSEUM
THIS IS FOR YOU.
WAIT...
TOO CLOSE...

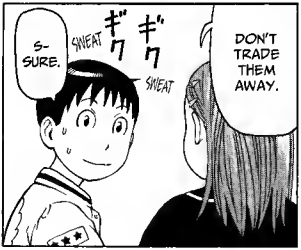


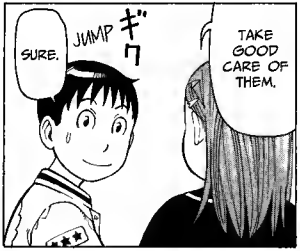
CARDS: GAS / ALUMINUM / CRAB BRIGADE

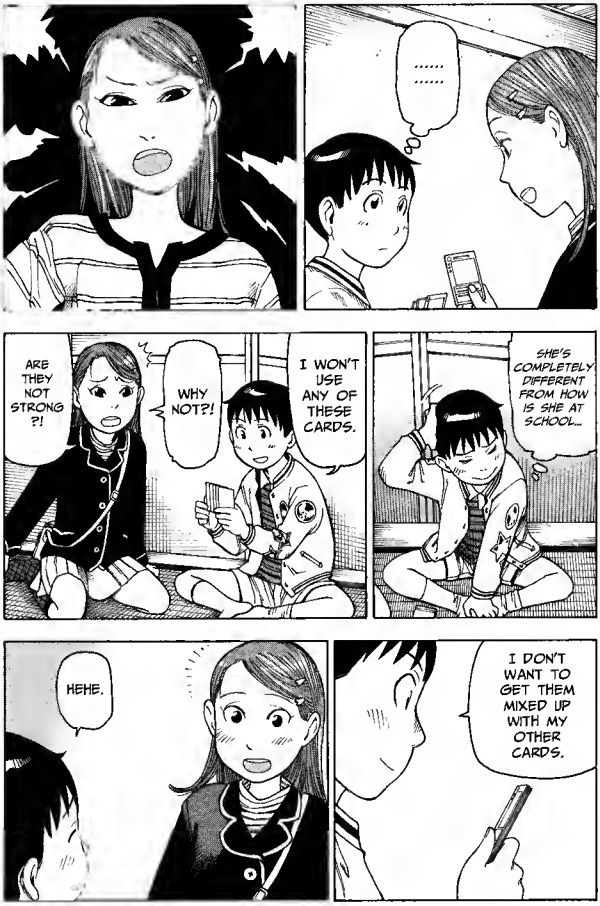


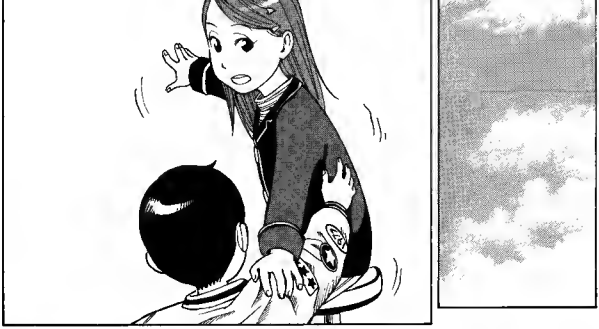
CARDS: LUNCHBOX / BAMBOO BROOM / NATURAL BONE BONE: LIFE 3, ATTACK...

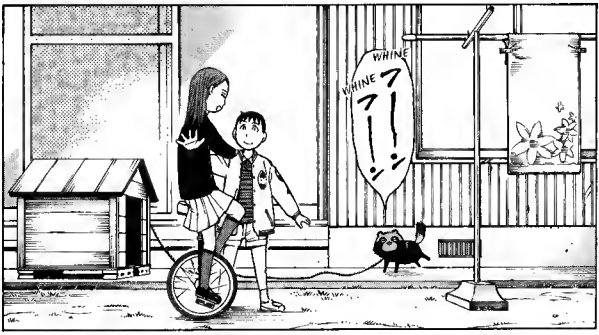


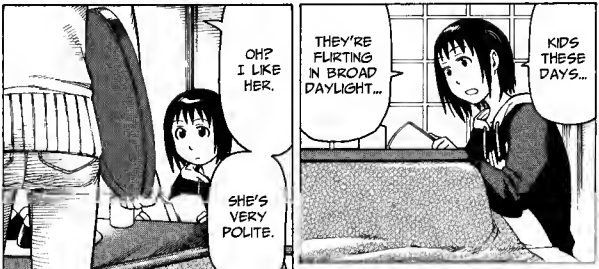




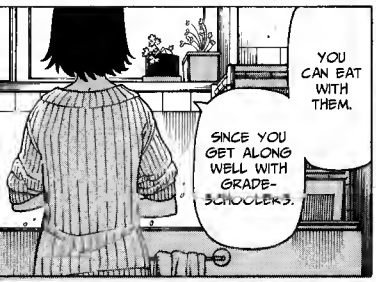

.....
.....
ARE THEY NOT STRONG ?!
WHY NOT?!
I WON'T USE ANY OF THESE CARDS.
SHE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HOW IS SHE AT SCHOOL...
HEHE.
I DON'T WANT TO GET THEM MIXED UP WITH MY OTHER CARDS.

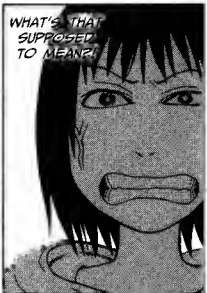



WHINE
WHINE
フーン
フーン

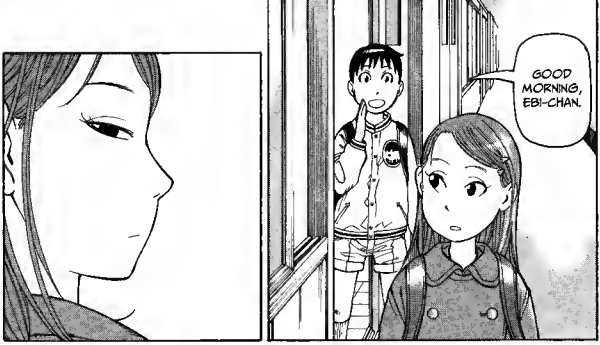

KIDS THESE DAYS...
THEY'RE FLIRTING IN BROAD DAYLIGHT...
OH? I LIKE HER.
SHE'S VERY POLITE.

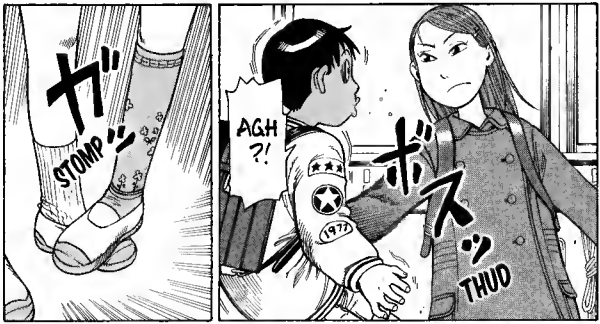
BOOK: BAGGAGE FOR NIHILISM / SAKAI HIDEO

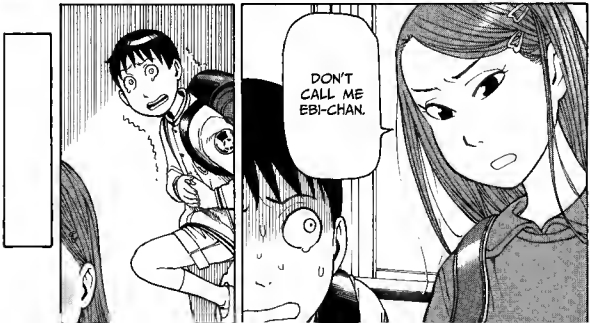


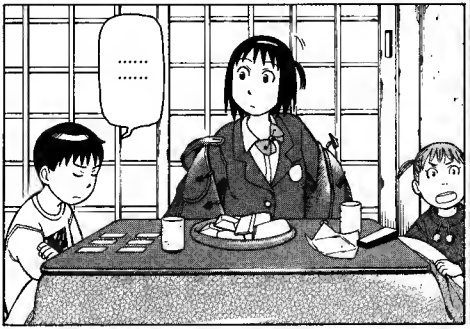


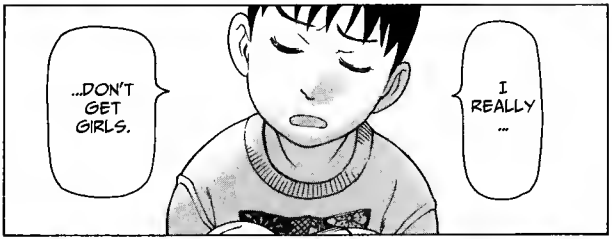
TAKERU, WHERE WERE YOU YESTERDAY?
4年3組
I WENT TO VISIT RELATIVES ...
CARDS!
WOW! WHAT IS THAT CARD?
SLIDE...
ススス...
YES! DOUBLE REFLECT!

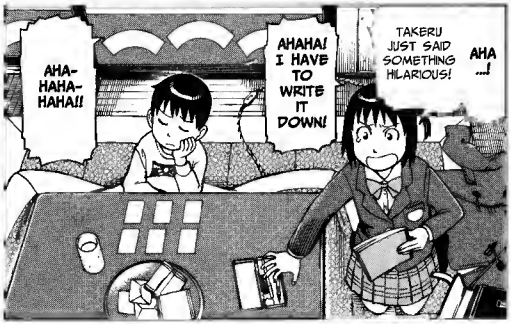

GOOD MORNING, EBI-CHAN.


ガッ
STOMP
AGH ?!
ボスッ
THUD


DON'T CALL ME EBI-CHAN.







CHAPTER 33 / END

DEMON COLOSSEUM CARDS

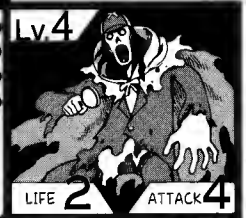
Sickle from Hell

PREMONITION OF DEATH ●●●

WHEN ATTACKING A CREATURE, PLAYER MUST PICK A NUMBER BETWEEN 1 AND 6 AND ROLL ONE DIE. IF THE PLAYER GUESSES CORRECTLY, THE TARGET CREATURE INSTANTLY DIES. HOWEVER, PLAYER TAKES 1 DAMAGE

DEMON COLOSSEUM CARDS

Zombie Detective



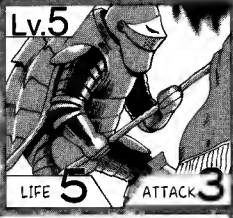
INSPECT ●●

REVEAL ONE FACE-DOWN CARD ON THE PLAYING FIELD

ROAD TO PERDITION

WHEN ZOMBIE DETECTIVE DIES, ALL MONSTERS AT AN EQUAL OR LOWER LEVEL ALSO DIE

Turtle Knight



DEMON COLOSSEUM CARDS

GUARD

DURING THE OPPONENT'S BATTLE PHASE, REDIRECT ANY ATTACK TARGETING A PLAYER OR CREATURE TO TURTLE KNIGHT

Migraine

ATTACH TO TARGET CREATURE. DURING THE BATTLE PHASE, CREATURE WITH MIGRAINE RUNS THE RISK OF SUFFERING 1 ADDITIONAL COST PER ACTION

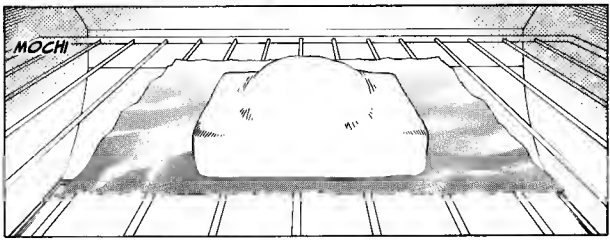
DEMON COLOSSEUM CARDS

POOR GUY

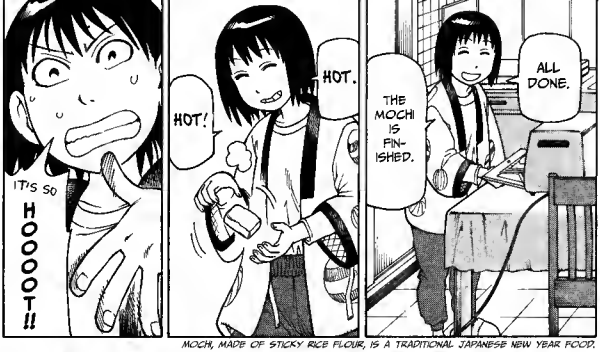
BY ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

HELLO, POOR GUY. I JUST BOUGHT A DVD OF THAT NEW MOVIE EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH IT IN MY HOME THEATER?
SINCE YOU DON'T—
I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO, SO I'LL COME.
MOVIE ROOM
OH! WONDER-FUL!
I CAN SEE WHY EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THIS DVD!
YOU DON'T HAVE A DVD PLAYER...?

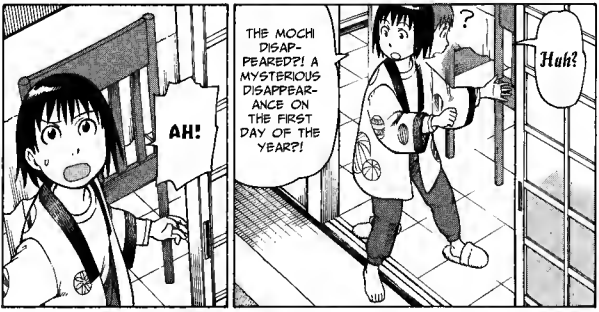
WREATH: WELCOME, SPRING



CHAPTER 34



MOCHI, MADE OF STICKY RICE FLOUR, IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE NEW YEAR FOOD.

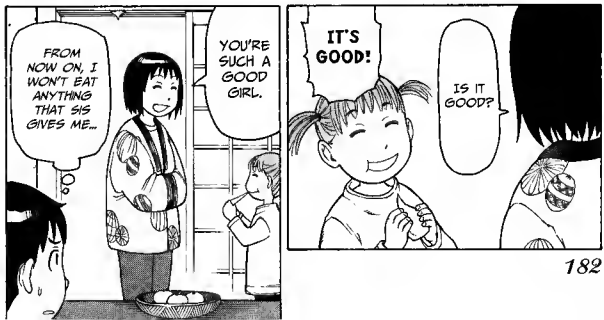


CHAPTER 34
A DUMB WAY TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S

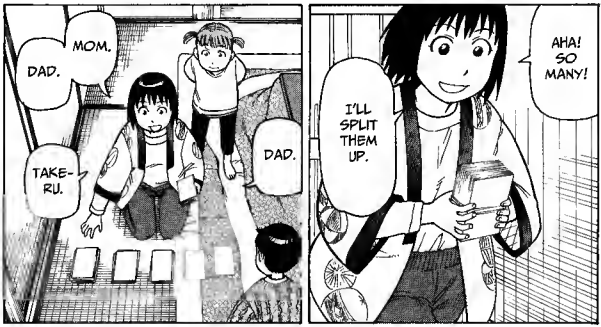
EGGPLANT, AS SEEN ON HOTORI'S KIMONO, IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW YEAR IN JAPAN. IT IS CONSIDERED LUCKY IF YOUR FIRST DREAM OF THE YEAR HAS EGGPLANTS, FALCONS, AND MT. FUJI

.....
CAN I WIPE IT OFF?
UH OH... THIS SUCKS...

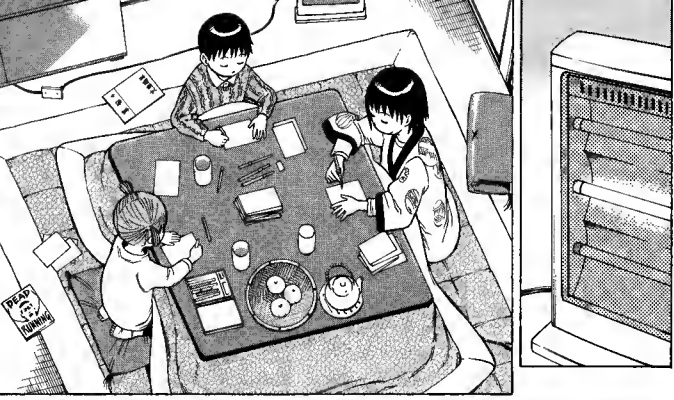
YEP!!
YUKIKO, DO YOU WANT MOCHI?


FROM NOW ON, I WON'T EAT ANYTHING THAT SIS GIVES ME...
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD GIRL.
IT'S GOOD!
IS IT GOOD?

MAILBOX: ARASHIYAMA

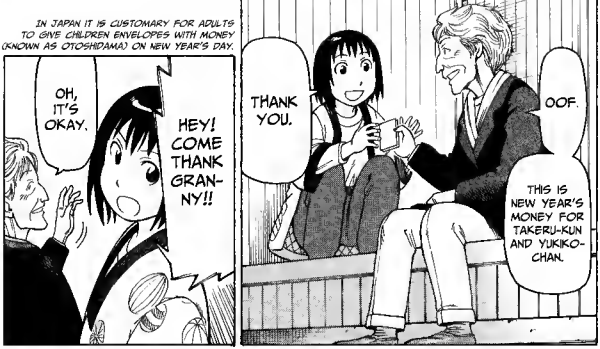


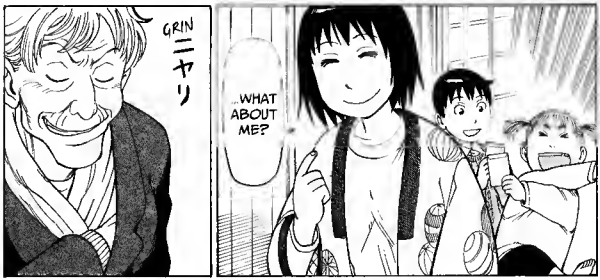
HEY! THERE'S ONE FROM MR. MORIAKI!
I NEED TO SEND HIM ONE, TOO.
...AM I THE ONLY STUDENT WHO RECEIVED ONE?
OH, I GOT A CARD FROM MR. MORIAKI.
HE'S SUCH A NICE PERSON.
WHAT?! I GOT A CARD FROM MR. MORIAKI?
BREAM
MAKE SURE YOU SEND A REPLY TO MR. MORIAKI.
I KNOW!
—AND SO ON, WITH THE REMAINING CLASS MEMBERS ABBREVIATED.


PEAT
IS
RUNNING

COM-
ING!
EXCUSE
ME—
KNOCK
KNOCK

SHE AND
DAD WENT
DOWN
TO THE
SHRINE.
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.
IS YOUR
MOM
AROUND?
HEY,
GRANNY.
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.


IN JAPAN IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR ADULTS TO GIVE CHILDREN ENVELOPES WITH MONEY (KNOWN AS OTOSHIDAMA) ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.
OOF.
THIS IS NEW YEAR'S MONEY FOR TAKERU-KUN AND YUKIKO-CHAN.
THANK YOU.
HEY! COME THANK GRANNY!!
OH, IT'S OKAY.

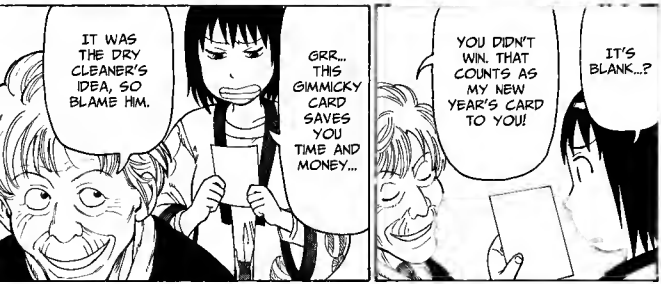


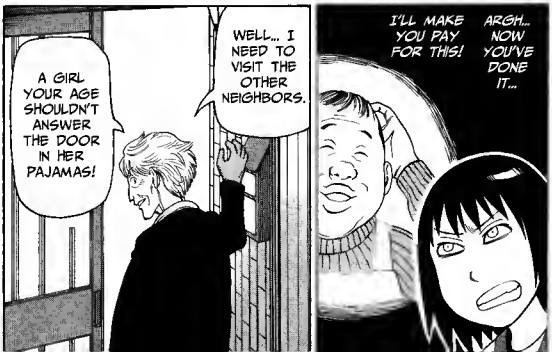
POSTCARDS: SEASIDE

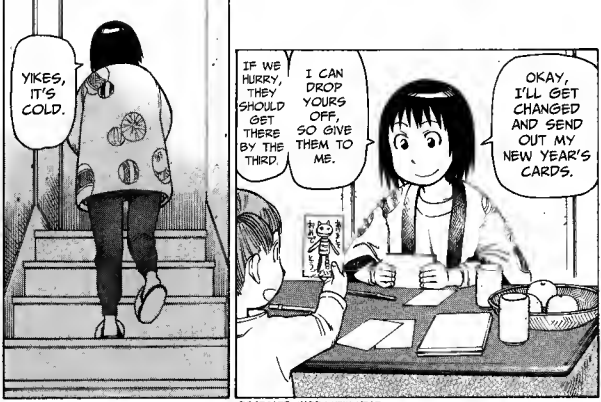
ABOUT ¥100

PICK YOUR POISON! IF YOU PICK THE WINNING CARD, YOU GET 10,000 YEN! OTHERWISE, YOU GET NOTHING.
NEW YEAR'S CARD AND MONEY COMBINED IN ONE!!
シーサイド

THIS ONE!
HMM.
...GULP.


IT WAS THE DRY CLEANER'S IDEA, SO BLAME HIM.
GRR... THIS GIMMICKY CARD SAVES YOU TIME AND MONEY...
YOU DIDN'T WIN. THAT COUNTS AS MY NEW YEAR'S CARD TO YOU!
IT'S BLANK...?


A GIRL YOUR AGE SHOULDN'T ANSWER THE DOOR IN HER PAJAMAS!
WELL... I NEED TO VISIT THE OTHER NEIGHBORS.
I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS!
ARGH... NOW YOU'VE DONE IT...

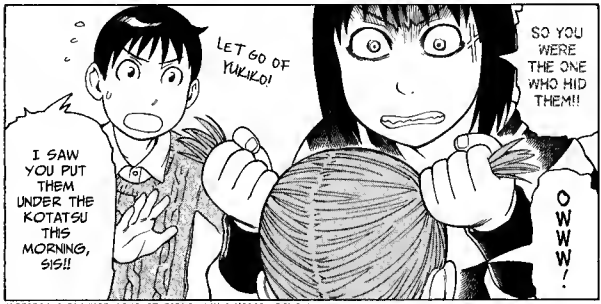

YIKES, IT'S COLD.
IF WE HURRY, THEY SHOULD GET THERE BY THE THIRD.
I CAN DROP YOURS OFF, SO GIVE THEM TO ME.
OKAY, I'LL GET CHANGED AND SEND OUT MY NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

POSTCARD: HAPPY NEW YEAR

NO WAY... THEY COULDN'T HAVE JUST WALKED OFF BY THEMSELVES.
HUH?
M-MY JEANS ARE GONE!!
A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR?
OH, WELL.

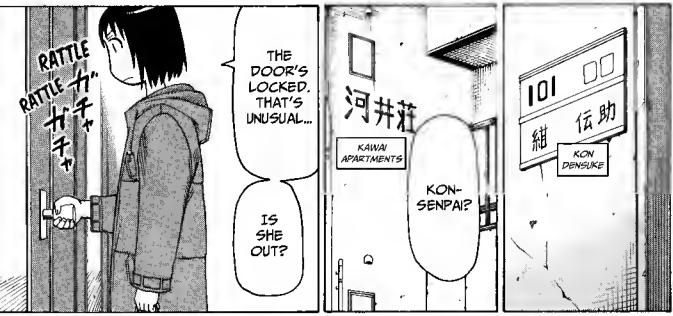
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHA—
I'LL WEAR THE LEATHER PANTS THAT KON-SENPAI GAVE ME.
THEY'LL PROBABLY LOOK FUNNY ON ME...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
TOO LONG.
TOO TIGHT.
CAN'T BUTTON UP.
THAT CHEAP-SKATE!
HMPH—
SHE GAVE ME THESE PANTS BECAUSE THEY NO LONGER FIT!!

ARE THESE YOUR JEANS?
IT'S SO COLD, SO COLD, SO COLD!
UGH ...
I CAN'T FIND MY JEANS, SO I CAN'T MAIL OUR NEW YEAR'S CARDS.
IT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.



KOTATSU: A BLANKET-COVERED TABLE WITH A HEATER BELOW.

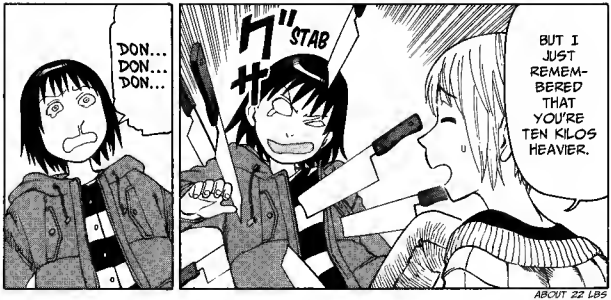
I'LL RETURN THESE PANTS WHILE I'M AT IT.
CLANG
コトン


RATTLE RATTLE
ガチャガチャ
THE DOOR'S LOCKED. THAT'S UNUSUAL...
IS SHE OUT?
河井荘
KAWAI APARTMENTS
KON-SENPAI?
101
紺伝助
KON DENSUKE

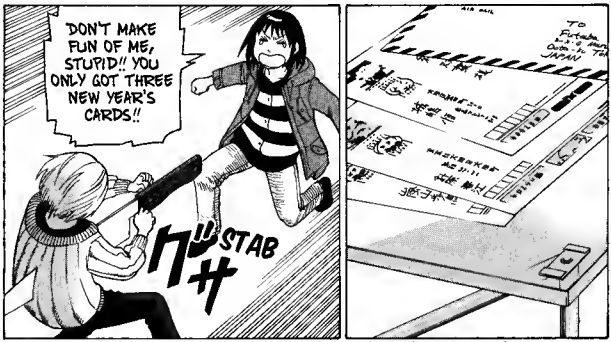
SLANTY-EYED BLONDE!! BUCK-TEETH!
GOOFU-TABA!!
KON FU-TABA!!
HAHA!
KON-SEN-PAI!!!
ドンドン
POUND POUND
KON-SEN-PAI!!!

THE TRUCK FOR COLLECTING ELECTRONIC WASTE IS HERE.
TURN
くるり
助
カチャ…
CLICK…
I WAS STANDING BEHIND THE DOOR, WAITING TO SEE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY… WELL, COME ON IN.
YOU'RE SO MEAN!!
..SO, EXPLAIN THAT "BUCK-TEETH" COMMENT AT THE END, OKAY?
IS THAT WHAT I SAID…? I WAS PROBABLY REFERRING TO HOW YOU KIND OF HAVE FANGS…
I GOT TOO EXCITED, SO I CAN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY…
ANYWAY, I BELIEVE YOU OWE ME AN APOLOGY.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THESE PANTS?!
THEY'RE TOO LONG!!
THEY'LL BE FINE ONCE YOU'RE WEARING SHOES.
REALLY? THEN SHOW ME!!

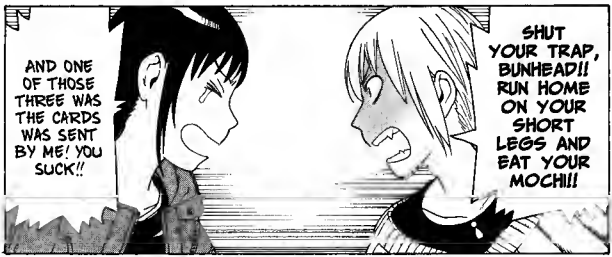
SEE?
ONCE YOU PUT ON SHOES, THEY'RE THE RIGHT LENGTH.
SLENDER
スラ
...A PER-FECT FIT!!
OH?
THEY DIDN'T FIT YOU?
HUH?
ER, NOT...
...EX-ACTLY...
WELL, I THOUGHT THEY WOULD FIT YOU, SINCE WE'RE THE SAME HEIGHT...



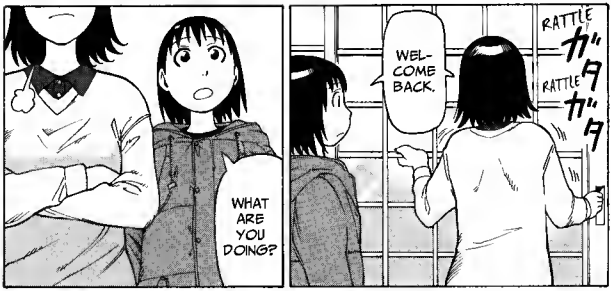
ABOUT 22 LBS



POSTCARDS: JOSHIMA SATORU / HARIBARA HARUE / ARASHIYAMA HOTORI


AND ONE OF THOSE THREE WAS THE CARDS WAS SENT BY ME! YOU SUCK!!
SHUT YOUR TRAP, BUNHEAD!! RUN HOME ON YOUR SHORT LEGS AND EAT YOUR MOCHI!!

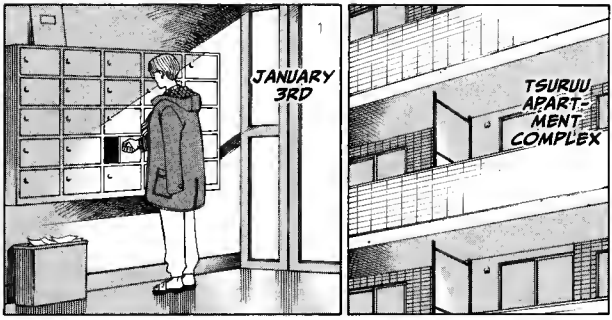
I'M HOME.
MOM AND DAD ARE BACK.


RATTLE ガタ
RATTLE ガタ
WELCOME BACK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M HAVING TROUBLE OPENING AND CLOSING THIS DOOR.
OH. I WONDER WHY.
AH!

I FORGOT TO CLEAN OFF THE MOCHI THAT FLEW UP THERE!!
THE DOOR IS ACTING UP...
...BECAUSE OF THE MOCHI THAT'S STUCK UP THERE!!
LOOK, MOM. THIS DOOR WORKS FINE.
WE CAN JUST USE THIS HALF INSTEAD.
FORGET ABOUT THE DOOR THAT'S STUCK.
A DOOR THAT CAN'T BE OPENED IS JUST A WALL.
STUCK?! IT'S STUCK?!
DO YOU KNOW WHY IT'S STUCK?!
SIS...

SOB.
YOU SHOULD CONFESS.
I SAW EVERY-THING...
I DID IT.
YOU SEE, THE MOCHI...
I'M SICK OF MOCHI...!
THAT'S CALLED BEING IRRESPON-SIBLE!!
I JUST FORGOT TO CLEAN UP THE MOCHI...
YOU ALWAYS FORGET TO FINISH WHAT YOU START!!



POSTCARD: HAPPY

CHAPTER 34 / END

AFTERWORD

VOLUME 4 FOLLOWED THE THEME OF MAINTAINING YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.
OUR LIVES ARE SUSTAINED BY MANY MINOR DETAILS THAT WORK BEHIND THE SCENES. THESE ARE DETAILS THAT WE USUALLY DON'T EVEN NOTICE, SUCH AS PERFORMING TEDIOUS TASKS, BOOTLICKING, GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY, OR FOLLOWING RULES, WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN OUR WAY OF LIFE. THAT IS WHY WE CAN BE FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE WHO WE MIGHT CONSIDER RIVALS AND WANT TO COMPLETELY CRUSH.

HOWEVER, OUR EVERYDAY LIVES ARE ALWAYS IN DANGER. THE TOWNSPEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES.

WHY DID HOTORI CRY?
I BELIEVE IT WAS MORE THAN SIMPLE PITY FOR THE SANADAS. SHE FINALLY REALIZED THAT OUR EVERYDAY LIVES MUST BE SUSTAINED BY HARD-WORKING INDIVIDUALS.

AND SO, HOTORI WAS ABLE TO SPEND HER NEW YEAR'S DAY IN RELATIVE PEACE.

FEBRUARY 22, 2008
石黒正数
ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

SPECIAL THANKS

ASSISTANT TSUNAMINO YUU
TSUBANA

HELPER ARI